



NewsNet

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

The Far-Right Reads Solzhenitsyn Lynne Viola, University of Toronto

The Gulag Archipelago, by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, became an instant classic when it first appeared in a Harper and Row three-volume English translation in the first half of the 1970s.¹ Although not the first book to “reveal” the Gulag, it was, beyond a doubt, the most literarily powerful, detailed, and morally outraged work on that cruel “archipelago” of the (mostly) Stalin-era forced labor camps and the individual and collective tragedies of the Stalin era. In 1985, Harvill, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, issued a one-volume abridged edition of *The Gulag Archipelago*, in order to expand readership in general, but also to enable teachers in secondary schools and universities to include the work in their reading lists. Although some of my colleagues were (and are) unhappy with aspects of the abridgement, its availability allowed, at the very least, for students to begin to understand this very difficult topic. And, according to the author of the volume’s new Foreword, the first abridged edition sold “some 30 million copies” (p. xiv), no doubt a huge step forward in bringing this work to the attention of a large audience.

If the 1985 abridged edition was not successful enough at bringing Solzhenitsyn to the public’s attention,

the publication of Anne Applebaum’s 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Gulag: A History*, re-vitalized the topic, bringing an inevitable renewed attention to Solzhenitsyn’s *The Gulag Archipelago*.² At around the same time, Soviet state and Communist Party archives began to open their doors, launching a generation of “Gulag scholars,” who have pioneered new understandings of Stalinist repression, highlighting the role of ideology, modernity, forced labor, geography, and a range of other topics essential for our understanding of the historical origins, policies, and realities of life in the Gulag. Although scholars have debated some aspects of Solzhenitsyn’s masterpiece, there is absolutely no doubt that Solzhenitsyn’s work has served as the foundation of Gulag studies.³

In 2018, Vintage Classics republished the abridged edition of Solzhenitsyn’s *The Gulag Archipelago*.⁴ Given its “classic” stature, scholars and teachers will surely welcome this reprint. However, there is an unforgivable flaw in its presentation to new generations of readers, a flaw that does a disservice to the legacy of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. What is new in this edition is a “Foreword” by Jordan B. Peterson, an individual that Vintage Classics, interestingly, fails to identify anywhere in this new volume. Who is

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Jordan Peterson and why is he left with no identification? University and secondary school teachers should ask these questions before making use of this book in their classrooms.

Jordan Peterson is decidedly not a scholar of Solzhenitsyn, the Gulag, or Russian history. That lack of expertise is evident in the multiple factual errors made in the Foreword. It also seems likely that Peterson does not have a command of the Russian language, so has not had the opportunity to read the original and unabridged Russian version of Solzhenitsyn's great work. He does, however, have a solid reputation in far-right circles, and has been profiled in a wide range of publications, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The New York Times*.⁵

Jordan Peterson is a "public intellectual," who has very successfully launched a second career as a popular lecturer and author. Peterson regularly packs the halls in his many lectures to largely young, white men, there to learn about responsibility and "traditional" gender norms. His performances draw thousands to hear his patriarchal wisdom, while his wardrobe bears a striking resemblance to that of Fred Waterford (played by Joseph Fiennes) in HBO's *The Handmaid's Tale*.

In his day job, Peterson is a controversial professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. (Full disclosure: I am Professor of History at the University of Toronto.) In late November 2017, hundreds of professors and students from Canada and the U.S. signed an open letter calling on senior University of Toronto administrators to terminate his appointment, arguing that Peterson's political activity "provided grounds for termination according to the university policy."⁶ The student newspaper, *The Varsity*, published the following reasoning for the petition:

Peterson's [proposed website](#), which was meant to identify "postmodern" and "neo-Marxist" university faculty members, courses, and disciplines, is targeted in the letter. Peterson recently announced the project has been put on hold, though the letter states that "the mere fact that such an aggressive and damaging initiative was proposed by a tenured University of Toronto professor is unacceptable."

The letter also lists what it refers to as Peterson's "previous efforts at agitation," including his refusal to use preferred gender pronouns, "inflammatory denunciations of so-called '[crazy women](#),'" and what it alleges as his "evident connections" to white supremacist and misogynistic groups. The letter references a [BBC article](#) about the cancellation of a free speech event where

Peterson and former Rebel Media writer Faith Goldy were to speak following the Charlottesville protests.

Three university policies are cited by the signees as evidence that Peterson's termination is justified. The first is the [Statement on Prohibited Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment](#), which reads, "The University aspires to achieve an environment free of prohibited discrimination and harassment and to ensure respect for the core values of freedom of speech, academic freedom and freedom of research." The letter alleges that Peterson's conduct "constitutes an obstacle" to that aspiration.

Also noted is the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#), which states that "seeking to disadvantage others by disruptive behaviour is unacceptable." The third policy referenced is the [Policy and Procedures on Academic Appointments](#), which states that grounds for termination include "gross misconduct."⁷

If Peterson sounds familiar, that may be because he is echoing much of the rhetoric of the 1990s cultural wars in the U.S. aimed at what I can only see as an imaginary "left," dominated in right-wing nightmares by Marxist university deans (!) and women (!!).

Peterson is even opposed to the existence of certain academic disciplines, despite being an advocate of the right's newfound interest in free speech. Speaking at a "Summit" held by the right-wing "Student in Support of Free Speech," Peterson expressed both his anger and superiority:

At the Canadian Freedom Summit, Peterson identified courses and programs he sees as "corrupt," including English literature, sociology, anthropology, education, and law. "Women's studies, and all the ethnic studies and racial studies, studies groups, man, those things have to go and the faster they go the better," said Peterson.⁸

Had he been an expert in any aspect of Russian studies, he would have known that the study of Solzhenitsyn, the Gulag, and Russian history would have been impossible without what he derisively calls "ethnic" studies.⁹ However, all this would simply be another right-wing cliché, rehearsed repeatedly over the last fifty years, but for Peterson's original (in the sense that he actually says this aloud) pronouncements on the problems of maintaining collegial relations with his female colleagues:

"Here's the problem, I know how to stand up to a man who's unfairly trespassed against me and the reason I know that is because the parameters for my resistance are quite well-defined, which is: we talk, we argue, we

push, and then it becomes physical. If we move beyond the boundaries of civil discourse, we know what the next step is,” he claims. “That’s forbidden in discourse with women and so I don’t think that men can control crazy women. I really don’t believe it.”

Regarding the necessity of the “underlying threat of physicality,” Peterson says, “If you’re talking to a man who wouldn’t fight with you under any circumstances whatsoever, then you’re talking to someone to whom you have absolutely no respect.”¹⁰

It is clear, then, that Peterson is not a specialist on *The Gulag Archipelago*; nor does his reasoning on “physicality” (violence by any other name) follow the moral and ethical standards that Solzhenitsyn represents.

Why was this individual engaged to write the Foreword to the hallowed and esteemed *The Gulag Archipelago*? What was Vintage Classics editor, Nick Skidmore, thinking? Perhaps Jordan Peterson had something new and original to say about Solzhenitsyn’s masterpiece? He does draw renewed attention to the role of “utopian” ideologies and violence. Following Solzhenitsyn, he places his main causal emphasis upon what he calls “Marxist collectivist ideology” (p. xxiii) and the “pathological Communist doctrine” (p. xviii). This is hardly original. No scholar would deny the role of ideology in understanding the Gulag; however, many would rightly call attention to an array of other important historical factors that help us come to grips with the violence of those times. In fact, it does a disservice to what has been labeled “Gulag studies” to limit analysis and simplify historical causality. Yet Peterson is correct when he stresses Solzhenitsyn’s emphasis on the dangers of Marxism and “utopian thinking.”

In Jordan Peterson’s forthright dictum, “inequality is the iron rule,” we begin to see how he strays from Solzhenitsyn. Peterson writes:

The only systems that have produced some modicum of wealth, along with the inevitable inequality and its attendant suffering, are those that evolved in the West, with their roots in the Judeo-Christian tradition: precisely those systems that emphasize above all the essential dignity, divinity and ultimate responsibility of the individual [in what is] still accurately regarded as the Free World. (p. xxii)

One cannot help but wonder whether this kind of statement has more to do with winning over Peterson’s young acolytes rather than with Solzhenitsyn. One also wonders whether there is an element of *right-wing* utopian thinking at play here. The issue, for Peterson, is so urgent

that he calls upon his readers to pray with him:

Perhaps we could come to remember and to learn from the intolerable trials by all those who passed through the fiery chambers of the Marxist collectivist ideology...We should all pray most devoutly to whatever deity guides us implicitly or explicitly for the desire and the will to learn from what we have been offered. May God Himself eternally fail to forgive us if in the painstakingly-revealed aftermath of such bloodshed, torture and anguish we remain stiff-necked, incautious, and unchanged.” (p. xxiii)

He also tells the readers of his Foreword that they must “state forthrightly” that,

I am indeed thrown arbitrarily into history. I therefore choose to voluntarily shoulder the responsibility of my advantages and the burden of my disadvantages...I will therefore strive not to descend into bitterness and then seek vengeance...” (p. xviii)

What relation this forthright statement has to Solzhenitsyn is likely clear only to his dedicated followers. It is a justification for Peterson’s “iron rule.” It is not surprising to see, then, that Jordan Peterson has an agenda and that, in an awkward fit, he is inserting Solzhenitsyn into that agenda.

Peterson’s warning to his acolytes concerns the danger of “today’s Marxists” (p. xx) and “the left” (pp. xvi-xvii), unidentified and nonexistent harbingers of the right’s nightmares. In an awkward call to action against the unidentified “left”, he writes:

ASEEES Announces the Results of the 2019 Board of Directors Elections

President-Elect/Vice President | President | Immediate Past President, 2020-2022

Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College

Members at Large, 2020-2022

Michael Kunichika, Amherst College

Karen Petrone, U of Kentucky

Graduate Student Representative, 2020-2021

Christina Novakov-Richey, UCLA

These new board members will begin their work on January 1, 2020.

Is it mere ignorance (albeit of the most inexcusable kind) that allows today's Marxists to flaunt their continued allegiance—to present it as compassion and care? Or is it, instead, envy of the successful, in near-infinite proportions? Or something akin to hatred for mankind itself? How much proof do we need? Why do we still avert our eyes from the truth?" (p. xx)

This is a tired argument. It is not from Solzhenitsyn per se, but from a cultural right-wing in the U.S. that has used "the left" as a bogeyman for decades. The question of "envy of the successful" perhaps returns readers back to Peterson's "iron law."

What is perhaps most disturbing about this Foreword, is that Solzhenitsyn's own style of writing has somehow naively leaked into Jordan Peterson's writing. I have my sympathies since this is a common problem for undergraduates who have been passionately struck by *The Gulag Archipelago*. However, neither Peterson nor my undergraduates have the right to an anger forged in testimony and painstaking work that Solzhenitsyn justly had. In a tired echo of Solzhenitsyn's passion, Peterson declaims: "Members of the bourgeoisie? Beyond all redemption! They had to go, as a matter of course! What of their wives? Children? Even—their grandchildren? Off with their heads, too!" (p. xvi) Seeking to explain Stalin's mass murder, he continues:

What values, what philosophical presumptions, truly dominated, under such circumstances? Was it desire for brotherhood, dignity, and freedom from want? Not in the least—not given the outcome. It was instead and obviously the murderous rage of hundreds of thousands of biblical Cains, each looking to torture, destroy and sacrifice their own private Abels. There is simply no other manner of accounting for the corpses. (p. xvi)

Not only is this dire rhetoric an insult to the original style of *The Gulag Archipelago*; it also throws out the last twenty years of Gulag studies.

Ignorance is the primary beneficiary of the "Foreword," and, for this, Vintage Classics shares responsibility. We might begin by asking whether a public intellectual, regardless of status on the right or the left, has a right to espouse his own political vision at the expense of a classic work of history and literature. Perhaps the answer is yes, provided said public intellectual at least gets his facts right and follows his own chastisement of readers and others (presumably the unidentified "left") about "unpardonable historical ignorance." (p. xxiii) Peterson's first example of his own "unpardonable historical ignorance" occurs on

the very first page of the Foreword. In a clearly imaginary, perhaps late-night chat with Solzhenitsyn, Peterson writes:

Despite all this [Solzhenitsyn's war service and suffering in the Gulag], you hold your head high. You refuse to turn against man or God, although you have every reason to do so. You write, instead, secretly, at night, documenting your terrible experiences. You craft a personal memoir—a single day in the labor camps—and, miracle of miracles! The clouds part! The sun shines through! Your book is published, and in your own country! It meets with unparalleled acclaim, nationally and internationally. But the sky darkens, once again, and the sun disappears. (p. xiii)

Solzhenitsyn's "memoir" was nothing of the kind. Here Peterson incorrectly refers to Solzhenitsyn's novella, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, a novel centered on the work and life of a peasant in the Gulag. This was not a "personal memoir" by any definition of the term. Nor was Solzhenitsyn a peasant. Neither of these points detract from the novella's significance. They do, however, help to explain why Khrushchev, a Communist with his own supposed sympathy for the Soviet Union's suffering peasantry, was drawn to this work and permitted its publication. The "facts" also help us to understand why and how Khrushchev could so easily turn on Solzhenitsyn later. We do not want our undergraduates to be fed factual errors like this one.

This lack of context does not bother Peterson—or, clearly for that matter, Vintage Classics. Peterson also takes the breath away when he writes that, "It is a matter of pure historical fact that *The Gulag Archipelago* played a primary role in bringing the Soviet Empire to its knees." (p. xiv) Does Peterson need to be reminded of the original publication dates of *The Gulag Archipelago*, the fact that *The Gulag Archipelago* was not published in the Soviet Union until 1989, or of the larger, surrounding context of intellectual and cultural factors that played into new critical assessments of Soviet history by its citizens? Perhaps, he needs to be reminded of the profound social, economic, and military factors that (to use a cliché) "brought the Soviet Union to its knees"? Although this kind of "great man" approach to history seems native to Peterson's thinking, most of the educated public in North America would be more likely to assign Ronald Reagan the hero role, which would, incidentally, be no more accurate. Both groups would benefit from a more expansive understanding of modern Russian history.

I would be remiss if I neglected to mention Peterson's reference to "one Martin Latsis" and his citation of one

of Latsis' editorials. Latsis expounds upon the notion of class-based justice in language typical of the Cheka (Soviet Russia's first secret police) and the period of the civil war. Peterson writes that, "It is necessary to *think* when you read such a thing, to meditate long and hard on the message." (p. xvi) Unless he is writing directly for his young acolytes, this statement can only elicit scorn given Peterson's "unpardonable historical ignorance" about the identity of this "one Martin Latsis." One would imagine that Vintage Classics would want the author of a new "Foreword" to have some empirical understanding about what he writes. Certainly, teachers would want Latsis to be identified for his role in the Cheka and the Red Terror, not insignificant historical markers to the background of the Gulag.

Readers might still be asking why Vintage Classics published this classic study of the Gulag with the unneeded and unwelcome Foreword by Jordan Peterson. It is hard not to conclude that financial motivations swayed Vintage Classics, unless either the press or its editor was attempting to make a conservative political statement. However, I urge colleagues who might wish to assign this book in their classrooms to think twice about whether this Foreword will actually do more harm than good in introducing the invaluable work of Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* to their students. I also urge Vintage Classics to re-examine their purpose in including Peterson's crass and poorly-informed Foreword to this classic work of history and literature. Personally, I respect Solzhenitsyn far too much to see him paired with the likes of Peterson.

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Endnotes

1 Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*, tr. Thomas P. Whitney and Harry Willetts, 3 vols. (New York: Harper and Row, 1973-1976). At the same time, the Paris-based publisher YMCA also published the work in Russian.

2 Anne Applebaum, *Gulag: A History* (New York: Doubleday, 2003).

3 Recent contributions include Nanci Adler, *The Gulag Survivor* (New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers, 2002); Golfo Alexopoulos, *Illness and Inhumanity in Stalin's Gulag* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017); Steven A. Barnes, *Death and Redemption: The Gulag and the Shaping of Soviet Society* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011); Alan Barenberg, *Gulag Town, Company Town: Forced Labor and Its Legacy in Vorkuta* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014); Wilson Bell, *Stalin's Gulag at War: Forced Labour, Mass Death, and Soviet Victory in the Second World War* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018); Michael David-Fox, ed., *The Soviet Gulag: Evidence, Interpretation,*

and Comparison (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016); Jeffrey S. Hardy, *The Gulag After Stalin: Redefining Punishment in Khrushchev's Soviet Union, 1953-1964* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016); Emily D. Johnson, *Gulag Letters: Arsenii Formakov* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017); Cynthia A. Ruder, *Building Stalinism: The Moscow Canal and the Creation of Soviet Space* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2018). This is a very partial list and only lists English-language sources. The Russian literature is enormous, as are the recently published primary sources on the topic (in English and in Russian).

4 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*, with a foreword by Jordan B. Peterson, abridged and introduced by Edward E. Ericson, Jr., trans. Thomas P. Whitney and Harry Willetts (London: Vintage, 2018).

5 Tom Bartlett, "What's So Dangerous About Jordan Peterson," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 17 January 2018 Author(s), Title, Publication, Date. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/what-s-so-dangerous-about/242256>; Nellie Bowles, "Jordan Peterson, Custodian of the Patriarchy," *New York Times*, 18 May 2018--- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/18/style/jordan-peterson-12-rules-for-life.html>; David Mastracci, "Jordan Peterson is the New Chief Lobbyist for 'Nice Guys' and Incells," *Huffington Post*, 31 May 2018, updated 5 June 2019 -- https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/davide-mastracci/jordan-peterson-incele-nice-guys-enforced-monogamy_a_23447825/

6 Aidan Currie, "Hundreds Sign Open Letter to University of Toronto Admin Calling for Jordan Peterson's Termination," *The Varsity*, 29 November 2017 Author(s), Title, Publication, Date. <https://thevarsity.ca/2017/11/29/hundreds-sign-open-letter-to-u-of-t-admin-calling-for-jordan-petersons-termination/>

7 Ibid.

8 Aidan Currie, "Faculty Members Pen Statement Condemning Peterson's Proposed Websight Targetting 'Postmodern, neo-Marxist Profs,'" *The Varsity*, 11, 21 November 2017. Author(s), Title, Publication, Date. <https://thevarsity.ca/2017/11/11/faculty-members-pen-statement-condemning-petersons-proposed-website-targeting-postmodern-neo-marxist-profs/>

9 For information on the development of "Russian Studies," see David C. Engerman, *Modernization from the Other Shore* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003); and idem., *Know Your Enemy: the Rise and Fall of America's Soviet Experts* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

10 Author(s), Title, Publication, Date. Tom Yun, "Jordan Peterson: 'I Don't Think That Men Can Control Crazy Women,'" *The Varsity*, 8 October 2017. <https://thevarsity.ca/2017/10/08/jordan-peterson-i-dont-think-that-men-can-control-crazy-women/>

CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

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THE ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES THE WINNERS OF THE 2019 ASEES PRIZES

Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Award

David Ransel, Professor Emeritus of History at Indiana University, Bloomington

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

Eleonory Gilburd, *To See Paris and Die: The Soviet Lives of Western Culture* (Harvard University Press)

Honorable Mention: Sarah Cameron, *The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan* (Cornell University Press)

Honorable Mention: Victoria Smolkin, *A Sacred Space Is Never Empty: A History of Soviet Atheism* (Princeton University Press)

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Maria Taroutina, *The Icon and the Square: Russian Modernism and the Russo-Byzantine Revival* (Penn State University Press)

Honorable Mention: Edyta M. Bojanowska, *A World of Empires: The Russian Voyage of the Frigate Pallada* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press)

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

Sarah Cameron, *The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan* (Cornell University Press)

Honorable Mention: Natalia Nowakowska, *King Sigismund of Poland and Martin Luther: The Reformation before Confessionalization* (Oxford University Press)

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

Artemy M. Kalinovsky, *Laboratory of Socialist Development: Cold War Politics and Decolonization in Soviet Tajikistan* (Cornell University Press)

Marshall Shulman Book Prize for an outstanding monograph dealing with the international relations, foreign policy, or foreign-policy decision-making of any of the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe

Eleonory Gilburd, *To See Paris and Die: The Soviet Lives of Western Culture* (Harvard University Press)

Honorable Mention: Benn Steil, *The Marshall Plan: Dawn of the Cold War* (Oxford University Press)

Ed A Hewett Book Prize for outstanding publication on the political economy of Russia, Eurasia and/or Eastern Europe

Artemy M. Kalinovsky, *Laboratory of Socialist Development: Cold War Politics and Decolonization in Soviet Tajikistan* (Cornell University Press)

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history

Will Smiley, *From Slaves to Prisoners of War: The Ottoman Empire, Russia and International Law* (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: William D. Godsey, *The Sinews of Habsburg Power: Lower Austria in a Fiscal-Military State 1650-1820* (Oxford University Press)

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

Jochen Böhler, *Civil War in Central Europe, 1918-1921: The Reconstruction of Poland* (Oxford University Press)

Natalia Nowakowska, *King Sigismund of Poland and Martin Luther: The Reformation before Confessionalization* (Oxford University Press)

Shortlist: Marcin Wodziński, *Hasidim: Key Questions* (Oxford University Press), and **Łukasz Szulc**, *Transnational Homosexuals in Communist Poland: Cross-Border Flows in Gay and Lesbian Magazines* (Palgrave)

Omeljan Pritsak Book Prize in Ukrainian Studies for a distinguished book in the field of Ukrainian studies

Maria G. Rewakowicz, *Ukraine's Quest for Identity: Embracing Cultural Hybridity in Literary Imagination, 1991-2011* (Rowman and Littlefield)

Honorable Mention: Nicholas Denysenko, *The Orthodox Church in Ukraine: A Century of Separation* (Northern Illinois University Press)

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

Sarah Cameron, *The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan* (Cornell University Press)

Honorable Mention: Elizabeth McGuire, *Red at Heart: How Chinese Communists Fell in Love with the Russian Revolution* (Oxford University Press)

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

Elly Brinkley, "I Protest Wherever I Can": The Belarus Free Theatre and Cross-Border Arts Activism," MA in Arts Politics, NYU

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 Tucker and Cohen, defended at an American or Canadian university

Louis Porter, "Cold War Internationalisms: The USSR in UNESCO, 1945-1967," UNC at Chapel Hill

CLIR Distinguished Service Award

Harry M. Leich, Russian Area Specialist at the Library of Congress (retired)

Prize winners will be recognized during the ASEEES Annual Convention award ceremony on Monday, November 25, 6:30pm, in San Francisco, CA. The event is open to the public. Full citations will be printed in the convention program.



Chernobyl: The History of a Nuclear Disaster, An Interview with Serhii Plokhii

Interview by Andrew Jack, Pushkin House

Pushkin House, an ASEES Institutional Member, sponsors the Pushkin House Book Prize, which rewards the very best non-fiction writing on Russia. The Prize was created to encourage public understanding and intelligent debate about the Russian-speaking world. The 2019 Pushkin House Book Prize was awarded to Serhii Plokhii for *Chernobyl*. [This article](#) was excerpted from an interview first published on June 15, 2019.

Why did you want to write about Chernobyl?

It was a mixture of my personal interest and the availability of new materials. Chernobyl is the story of my own life. It was very emotional and personal for me and my family. I grew up in Ukraine, 500km down the Dnieper River from where it all happened. I remember this complete lack of information, and then gathering little pieces of advice on what to do from the BBC. So in summer 1986, I kept my children in our apartment, not allowing them outside. My friends and some of my students were summoned to the army and sent to Chernobyl. Then I realised there were new archives I could use from the Communist party headquarters and the KGB, in Kyiv, including documents of the commission in charge of evacuation.

How important was Chernobyl in the collapse of the Soviet Union?

Once I started working on the book, I realised I was able to make a relatively strong case that it was a major factor in the dissolution of the USSR. Quite a few people say Afghanistan was a major factor, but I don't see that: the war was fought in secrecy and there was never a major mobilization of population against it. Chernobyl produced all of that. Look at the rise of the pro-independence movements in the two crucial republics in the collapse of the USSR – the first in Lithuania and the last in Ukraine. The mobilisation of mass movements first happened around anti-nuclear protests; then the newly formed organisations put independence on their banners.

Was it also the beginning of ecological activism?

In Ukraine, and the post-Soviet space in general, you see the ecological movement and mobilisation around 1988-89. The first political party created in Ukraine apart from the Communists was called Green World. But by 1992-93, you see the death of the environment as an issue. It was overtaken by the really terrible economic condition and never came back. The same parliament in Ukraine that voted to go nuclear-free, stop construction and shut down existing reactors reversed its decisions. It took major pressure from the west to convince the government to shut down Chernobyl in December 1999.

What is new in your book?

Despite the abundance of publications both in the West and even more in the region, I think mine turned out to be the first really comprehensive history of the accident from the start. There have been oral histories, personal experiences, some very good, very moving emotionally, sometimes very technical works, but

nothing that covered the whole story. My book establishes the chronology, following what happened before, during and for years after the accident, and the political impact it had.

What surprised you during your research?

I was really surprised at the degree to which the people working in the industry were not prepared for the reactor meltdown. It was not part of their thinking that reactors explode. For the first 24 hours, denial was the first reaction. That explains a lot about how people reacted and why evacuation took a long time. Also, the city of Prypyat - a ghost town, a nuclear Pompeii – was evacuated not because the radiation was considered dangerous but because the authorities were expecting a second and third explosion which would be much bigger.

How is it viewed now in the region?

Chernobyl is commemorated in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia every year. Every April 26, journalists find someone who has not yet been interviewed. The idea is that we mourn what happened, that there was a tragedy, honour, heroism. But I don't see any reflection as part of these discussions that Ukraine still gets more than 50 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power, Belarus wants to build a nuclear reactor and Russia builds them not only at home but also abroad. We need a public discussion on whether we are safe today and what have we learned. I don't think that has happened.

What are the broader lessons today?

There was a very lax general safety culture, with pressure from government and party officials to fulfil quotas. But we can't say it was just about an evil Communist system. Chernobyl was about business. The most horrible thing operators could imagine if they shut down the reactor was that the quotas would not be met and they would be fired. You can look at what is happening today around the world with the nuclear industry going through financially difficult times, and realise these same concerns and the implications for safety are as important today as 33 years ago. The decisions to build nuclear power plants are made by sovereign states and the beneficiaries are those states. But when something goes wrong, it's the international community that is affected, and which picks up the multi-billion dollar bill. It would make sense to increase their role and institutions in regional decision making, and to be sure the safety culture and procedures are there and implemented.

Serhii Plokhii is the Mykhailo S. Hrushevs'kyi Professor of Ukrainian History and Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. He is a leading authority on Eastern Europe and the author of numerous books, including [Chernobyl: The History of a Nuclear Disaster](#) (2018), [The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine](#) (2015), and [The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union](#) (2015), which won the 2015 Pushkin House Book Prize.

Andrew Jenks specializes in the history of modern Europe, Russia, environment, and science. He is the author of [Perils of Progress](#) (2010) and [Russia in a Box: Art and Identity in an Age of Revolution](#) (2005).

The National Council for Eurasian and East European Research invites proposals for the

2020 NATIONAL RESEARCH COMPETITION & 2020 SHORT-TERM TRAVEL GRANT COMPETITION

Deadline: December 31, 2019

ABOUT THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COMPETITION

The National Research Competition provides funds for both collaborative and individual research projects. **Research Contracts** support collaborative projects involving multiple scholars or researchers who are U.S. citizens and hold the PhD. **Research Grants** support research projects conducted by individual scholars or researchers who are U.S. citizens and hold the PhD. The maximum award for Research Contracts or Research Grants is \$10,000. Please visit www.nceeer.org to view countries eligible for research.

Research activity supported by a Contract or Grant may begin as early as March 1, 2020. Scholars and researchers should schedule their research activities so as to complete and submit all project requirements to NCEEER by September 30, 2021. Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report to NCEEER and may be asked to present the results of research and other programmatic experiences in a public forum sponsored by NCEEER. In addition, research reports submitted to NCEEER may be considered for publication in the journal *Problems of Post-Communism*, published by Taylor & Francis.

ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM TRAVEL GRANT COMPETITION

This Short-Term Travel Grant program provides a maximum award of \$2,000 for research on the countries of Russia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans. To qualify, applicants must be U.S. citizens holding the PhD.

Short-term travel grants are individual grants to scholars or researchers which may be used for up to twelve months for the following purposes: 1) enabling scholars and researchers to get quick access to research resources in the relevant regions; 2) supporting refresher visits on particular topics for already established research work; 3) enabling research planning with colleagues from the regions on broader multi-year projects already funded or to be funded by other sources; and 4) supporting the creation of databases or research aids.

ABOUT NCEEER

Founded in 1978, NCEEER supports research projects that facilitate a mutually beneficial exchange of information between scholars and policy makers and contribute to a better understanding of current developments and future prospects in the post-communist countries of Europe and Eurasia.

HOW TO APPLY

For more information and to apply, visit NCEEER's website at www.nceeer.org and select "Programs." The deadline for application submission is December 31, 2019. NCEEER's Board of Directors will evaluate the competitions and applicants will be notified of the outcome by March 1, 2020.



The Hoover Library and Archives at 100: Worlds in a Tower

Eric T. Wakin, Hoover Institution Library & Archives

Established by future president Herbert Hoover at his alma mater, Stanford University, the Hoover Institution marks its centennial in 2019. What began as the Hoover War Library with a \$50,000 donation by its namesake, and the founding goal to “collect historical material on war,” has now grown into the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace. The Hoover Tower and carillon (dedicated in 1941) dominate the ever-expanding Hoover campus, itself located at the heart of Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

The Institution’s two pillars are its fellows and its Library & Archives. Hoover fellows are an interdisciplinary group of humanists, social and political scientists, and natural scientists, who study economics, education, energy, foreign affairs, health care, national security and politics, history, law, and information technology. Our fellows have both academic and practical experience, whether at Stanford or other top universities, and often with service at the highest levels of government or the private sector. The soon to be opened George P. Shultz building is named after the Hoover Institution’s Thomas W. and Susan B. Ford Distinguished Fellow, one of only two people to have held four cabinet-level appointments, including Secretary of State and Treasury.

Hoover’s Library & Archives is committed to collecting, preserving, providing access to, and supporting engagement with the most vital material related to global political, social, and economic change. Our collections relating to Europe, Russia and the Soviet Union, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa are among the largest in the world. It has a focused collecting program, closely aligned with our institutional mission, and includes digital access initiatives, exhibitions, research, fellowship programs, academic events, and teaching. The Library & Archives continue Mr. Hoover’s vision that the Institution “must not be a mere library” but that it support a vibrant international community of scholars and a broader public interested in the meaning and role of history.

The Hoover Library and Archives have long occupied a critical position in a national, international, and regional network of archives and libraries. In the early years after its founding, great Hoover collectors such as Ralph Lutz, the A.R.A. representative, and historian Frank A. Golder, and others focused particularly on print, archival and visual ephemera of Germanic and Russian-Soviet provenance.



Hoover War Library Reading Room, 1922

In the interwar and post-War periods collecting emphases expanded to include Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Without the efforts of these founding curators and their modern successors, some of the “destination” collections in the Hoover Archives and Library may well have perished in their countries of origin.



Curators Macej Siekierski, Agnes Petersen, and Joseph Dwyer examining newly acquired Eastern European acquisitions, late 1980s-1990

By the beginning of the Twenty-first century, further re-alignments and cooperative agreements with Stanford University’s Libraries strove to reduce duplication in building print collections, thereby allowing Hoover curators to give even greater attention to acquiring original archival, visual and non-print media resources.

In recent years, curatorial staff have also begun to reassess, catalog, exhibit and digitize, in some cases for the first time, many important parts of the collections, including precious collections of illustrated travel books of the 17-19th centuries, special association and provenance books, and some of the paintings and *objets* held in Hoover’s repositories and exhibit areas

Today the collections of the Library & Archives continue to grow under the stewardship of scholar-curators who supervise holdings that include 750,000 volumes in over 70 languages, almost 7,000 archival collections, and hundreds of art objects and artifacts.



Former President Carter in the Nicolas de Basily Room, Hoover Tower, 1983

In a happy coincidence, the 51st National Convention of ASEES will take place in San Francisco, just a short distance from Hoover and Stanford at the south end of the Bay. As one of its contributions to the Conventions, the Hoover Library and Archives is

privileged to sponsor a Round Table and Panel (Sunday November 24, morning and afternoon) offering both “A Glance to the Past” and a look at “Today and the Future.” Some of the presentations and discussions will focus on those individuals who formed the collections, and the ways these collections have been used in the past and today. Those conventioners who make on-site visits to Stanford are also invited to visit **Hoover@100: Ideas Defining A Century**, in the Hoover Tower, a showcase of documents and artifacts centered around the ideas of peace, freedom, and education—ideas that are reflected in the lives of Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry, and that drove the Institution’s collecting and the work of its eminent fellows in its first century of existence. Posters, correspondence, photographs, and manuscripts drawn exclusively from the Hoover Library and Archives’ collections, are among the materials on display. The new exhibition galleries will be *open seven days a week*, 10 am–4 pm.

Eric Wakin is the deputy director of the Hoover Institution and the Robert H. Malott Director of the Institution’s library and archives, overseeing their strategic direction and operations.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC AND EURASIAN STUDIES HIRING ASSOCIATE/FULL PROFESSOR EAST CENTRAL EUROPE

The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies (DSES) in collaboration with the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin invites applications for the position of associate or full professor, with an anticipated start in the fall semester of 2020. We seek applications from scholars who work on East Central Europe, with a specialization in cultural studies (including literary studies). Engagement in interdisciplinary and digital scholarship is welcome, and all candidates must have an active research and publication agenda. Candidates will be expected to teach one of the following languages: Czech, Polish, or Ukrainian and other departmental service courses, as part of a two course per semester load. The selected candidate will be expected to exhibit a commitment to service in the department, center, college, and university, and be qualified to teach undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as direct graduate and undergraduate student independent research.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Slavic language/literature, cultural studies or a related interdisciplinary degree plan is required.

Application Instructions: Applicants should submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and a scholarly writing sample of approximately 30 pages to Professor Mary Neuburger, Chair, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, via Interfolio <https://apply.interfolio.com/67590>. If you do not have a Dossier account with Interfolio, you will be prompted to create one prior to applying for the position, assistance available from Interfolio’s Customer Support - help@interfolio.com or call (877) 997-8807.

Deadline for applications is October 30, 2019 and finalists will be interviewed via Skype in November or December. The University of Texas at Austin is an AA/EEO employer, and requires all expected hires to undergo a criminal background check.



Slavic Digital Humanities Pre-Convention Workshop and Events

The Slavic Digital Humanities group will hold its second annual pre-convention workshop on the *Prozhito* (prozhitto.org) diary archive. The event will take place from 8:30 to 11:45 AM on November 23 at San Francisco Marriott Marquis. The workshop will bring together DH experts and Slavic scholars. Participants will experiment with the data from *Prozhito* and discuss how it can be used in research and in the classroom.

In an on-going effort to build a digital ego-document repository, *Prozhito* has collected over 3,000 diaries and made over 400,000 diary entries available to researchers through the archive search function. The majority of these Russian- and Ukrainian-language diaries encompass the momentous events of the twentieth century, including the Russian revolution and the two World Wars. The next step in *Prozhito* development is finding new digital tools to assist researchers who wish to work with the archive. Like last year, when the spotlight was on the *Post-Soviet '90s* digital project, the goal of this workshop is to bring together the project founders and the larger community of Slavic and Digital Humanities scholars.

The workshop is open to all ASEES attendees as well as scholars from the Bay Area wishing to collaborate in a series of experiments designed to develop research questions for the project. Together with *Prozhito* founder and leader, Misha Melnichenko, three invited experts—Anastasiya Bonch-Osmolovskaya, Academic Supervisor of the Moscow Higher School of Economics (HSE) Computational Linguistics program, Philip Gleissner, Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at The Ohio State University, and Kelly O'Neill, Harvard University *Imperiia* Project Director—will showcase digital tools for project data mining. Using a web application developed by Andrew Janco, the experts will conduct microstudies to investigate the genre features of the diary. The workshop organizers and experts hope that by demonstrating distant reading, network analysis, and geospatial analysis methodologies they will promote greater use of both *Prozhito* archive and digital tools in Slavic studies.

Experiments will focus on identifying the genre elements in the diary descriptions of two types of events: global events and private events. Global events would include the end of World War II in Europe and the first manned spaceflight. Tied to a particular day, these events are easy to locate within the diary, and they are all but guaranteed to be tied to the description of emotions people felt in those historic

moments. Private events include things such as the birth of a child, a death in the family, divorce or separation, or the move into a new home. Private events usually invoke a richer emotional response in both diarists and readers. Echoes of events that define the narrative of personal life reverberate through more diary entries than the reaction to global events that tie a person to the life of the nation. After applying their methodologies of choice to the subcorpora of diary entries describing both types of events, the experts and workshop participants will compare and contrast the data obtained with various DH tools. The *Prozhito* team will then ask for the audience to share the research questions Slavic studies scholars have when using the digital ego-document archive. Audience feedback on the feasibility of adopting DH methodologies for ego-document research and best practices of such multi-tool research will close the workshop and bridge it with the Slavic DH roundtable “[Teaching with Digital Humanities: Primary Sources, Methods of Analysis, and Real-World Applications](#)” (Sun, November 24, 10:00 to 11:45am).

The roundtable presenters will discuss their experience of bringing privately held, archived, and published diaries to an audience of students, volunteer transcribers, and the interested public and using digital humanities methods in teaching and analyzing diaries. Misha Melnichenko will present the history of *Prozhito* as an archival project and talk about *Prozhito*-led volunteer diary study and transcribing workshops in Russia. Anastasiya Bonch-Osmolovskaya will discuss student practicums HSE has been holding in association with *Prozhito* in Moscow and the experience of introducing students to transcribing and presenting diaries online. Kelly O'Neill will talk about using digital spatial analysis in teaching and the use of digital methodologies to analyze diaries. Ben Sawyer, the roundtable leader and co-host of the podcast *The Road to Now* (www.theroadtonow.com) will chair the panel and together with his co-producer Bob Crawford will record the roundtable conversation for the podcast.

Please follow our page on Humanities commons <https://slavicdh.aseees.hcommons.org> for further information about additional Slavic DH events and panels at the ASEES 2019 convention, including the group business meeting on November 23, a broad roundtable on incorporating DH tools and resources in the classroom at noon on Saturday, a panel on digital migration studies, a panel on the emergence of digital technology in Russia studies, and one on using DH to foster collaborations in Slavic and East European Studies.

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Alexander Marshall, John W. Steinberg, and Steven Sabol, eds. *The Global Impacts of Russia's Great War and Revolution, Book 1: The Arc of Revolution, 1917–24*, xix + 569 p., 2019 (ISBN 978-0-89357-432-1), \$44.95.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was quickly perceived by both contemporaries and subsequent scholars as not merely a domestic event within the Russian Empire, but as a systemic crisis that fundamentally challenged the assumptions underpinning the existing international system. There were few political developments anywhere in the world in 1917–24 not directly or indirectly influenced by the revolution. *The Arc of Revolution*, the first of three books, examines the reverberations of the revolution in the geographically contiguous imperial borderlands traditionally contested between imperial Russia and its geopolitical rivals:

the terrain stretching from Finland, through Central Europe to the Transcaucasus and Central Asia.

Pauline S. Crosley. *Intimate Letters from Petrograd*, ed. Lee A. Farrow, xix + 150 p., 2019 (ISBN 978-0-89357-494-9), \$29.95.

In April 1917, Walter Crosley assumed the position of naval attaché to Petrograd and brought his wife Pauline with him. Over the next eleven months the Crosleys witnessed the last gasps of the Russian Empire and the emergence of the new Bolshevik-led regime. Throughout this period, Pauline wrote letters describing the changing political landscape and the challenges of daily life in a city in the midst of, and in the wake of, revolution. Her book of published letters is an important addition to the body of first-hand literature on the Russian Revolution.



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SLAVICA



<http://kritika.georgetown.edu>

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

Vol. 20, no. 3 (Summer 2019)

Forum: Crime, Labor, and Justice in the Wartime USSR

OLEG BUDNITSKII
The Great Terror of 1941

OLEG V. KHEVNIUK
Deserters from the Labor Front

Articles

ALEXANDER V. MAIOROV
Byzantine Imperial Purple in Ancient Rus'

Laurie Manchester
Fusing Russian Nationalism with Soviet Patriotism
History and Historians: Reflections on Women's History

BARBARA ENGEL, EVE LEVIN, NATALIA PUSHKAREVA,
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Review Essays

MICHAEL HANCOCK-PARMER
Flight and Famine

ELEONORY GILBURD
Seminal Years and the Long Arc of the Moral Universe

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.

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

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

Bohumil Hrabal. *Murder Ballads and Other Legends*, trans. Timothy West, viii + 109 p., 2018

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

Three String Books



"Some texts, after I've written them, have woken me

up in the night so that I break out

in a sweat and jump out of bed." With this confession

legendary author Bohumil Hrabal concludes this genre-bending collection of stories published at the height of his fame in the 1960s. At the book's heart is "The Legend of Cain," an early version of the novella (and Oscar-winning film) *Closely Watched Trains*. Beautifully illustrated with woodcuts from early modern broadside ballads, *Murder Ballads and Other Legends* appears here in English for the first time, 50 years after it first appeared in Czech.

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



ASEEES launched its first-ever fundraising campaign at the 2018 Convention in Boston with the goal to double the funds available in support of research and scholarship and to increase member investment in the Future of the Field. More than 270 individuals and organizations have generously responded to date, and, although the work is not over, we are proud to celebrate the exciting outcomes and opportunities that will make a positive difference in the present and future of our field.

- Doubled the funding for Graduate Student Convention Travel Grants and increased the funding for our other travel grants over the next 3 years
- Doubled the funding for the Research Grant program and are distributing over \$125,000 to twenty-four grantees in 2019
- Established four new research grants programs: the LGBTQ Studies, the Women and Gender Studies, Civil Society in Russia, and the Joseph Bradley and Christine Ruane Research Grant
- Launched the Diversity and Inclusion Convention Travel Grant program, awarded for the first time at the 2018 Convention
- Established the Catharine Nepomnyashchy Travel Grants starting in 2020

**Join the 270 members who have already committed to the
Future of the Field**
MAKE YOUR GIFT OR PLEDGE TODAY!
WWW.ASEEEES.ORG/FUTURE

2019 ASEEES DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT

Thomas Stevens, PhD Candidate | History
University of Pennsylvania

I am delighted to receive support for my research into the lives and influence of military veterans in the early Soviet Union. The ASEEES Dissertation Research Grant will allow me to conduct archival work to illuminate veterans' post-war trajectories and their impact on the village and the political system, and to contribute to a broader literature on the social and political consequences of violent conflict. The Grant is a welcome source of support for international students, for whom funding opportunities can be limited.



My research focuses on uses of the film medium in the former Soviet Union and, in particular, the history of nontheatrical and amateur filmmaking. Being an ASEEES member and participating in annual conventions since 2013 has provided an important platform for sharing research and exchanging ideas with scholars investigating other aspects of Russian and Soviet culture. This travel grant provides crucial support to my participation in the 51st Convention and thus aids in further developing my project.

Maria Vinogradova | Cinema Studies
Pratt Institute

2019 CONVENTION OPPORTUNITY GRANT

2019 GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

Agnes Keleman, PhD Candidate | History
Central European University (Hungary)

As a historian of East Central Europe, I have several colleagues and mentors who regularly participate in ASEEES conventions, and their stories made me wish I could be there as well! Now we put together an exciting panel about the connection of social mobility, higher education, and East and Central European states' interventions therein, and



I am grateful for the ASEEES travel grant for enabling me to travel to San Francisco. I am very much looking forward to my very first ASEEES conference!



of the Russian Empire. I also organized a book presentation of my previous collective project on Eastern European industrialized cities and modernity. In addition, the grant will help me to conduct research at the Hoover Institution. Indeed, a great opportunity for an aspiring scholar from Poland.

Wiktor Marzec | Sociology
University of Warsaw (Poland)

2019 REGIONAL SCHOLAR TRAVEL GRANT



Register by October 21

All presenters (panelists, discussants, roundtable participants, and session chairs) must preregister. Attendees can register at the Convention at a higher rate.

aseees.org/convention/registration

EXHIBITION HALL DATES AND HOURS

Please note new Exhibit Hall hours

- Saturday, November 23 4:00-6:30PM (Opening Reception at another location)
- Sunday, November 24 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- Monday, November 25 9:00 AM-6:30 PM
Book Awards Reception 5:30-6:30 PM
- Tuesday, November 26 - The Exhibit Hall Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Registration & Badge Pick-Up Hours: 9:00AM – 5:30 PM

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

- ASEEEES Slavic Digital Humanities Pre-Conference Workshop 8:30-11:40AM
- Central Asian, Russian and East European Writing Workshop 9:30-11:30AM

EVENING EVENTS

- Involvement in Regional Affiliate Activities: Learn about New Opportunities 6:30-8:00PM
- Association for Women in Slavic Studies Awards Reception 6:30-9:30PM
- Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry Reading 7-8:30PM
- Film: *The Color of Pomegranates* 7:30-9PM
- ASEEEES Opening Reception (sponsored by the Fund for European University at St Petersburg) 8-10:30PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

DAYTIME EVENTS

- Committee for Careers Beyond Academia Roundtable: Policy-Relevant Career Paths, 10-11:45AM
- Roundtable: 1989: A 2019 Retrospect on Its Causes and Legacies 4:30-6:15PM
First democratically elected President of Poland and co-founder of the Solidarity Movement, President Lech Wałęsa joins scholars to discuss the causes and impact of 1989.

EVENING EVENTS

- ASEEEES Annual Meeting of the Members 6:15-6:45PM

- Film: *The Trial* 6:45-8:15PM
- Contemporary Russian Queer Literature Reading 6:45-8:15PM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

DAYTIME EVENTS

- ASEEEES's Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion Lightning Round: Valuing Difference: Diversity, Inclusion, and the Future Direction of Slavic Studies 8-9:45AM
- Film: *From Gulag to Glasnost: The Art of Resistance, 2001* 10-11:45AM
- Presidential Plenary: Illuminating the Darkness: Practices of Belief and Disbelief 12-1:30PM
Mark D. Steinberg (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), 2019 President of ASEEEES, chairs the Plenary with speakers Eliot Borenstein (New York U), Laurie Essig (Middlebury College), Joan Neuberger (U of Texas at Austin), and Ronald Grigor Suny (U of Michigan).
- Vice-President Designated Panel: Poland: Cultural Mechanisms of (Right-wing) Political Upheaval 1:45-3:30PM
- Film: *Memories of the Wave* (Souvenirs, de vague) 1:45-3:30PM

EVENING EVENTS

- ASEEEES Awards Reception 5:30-6:30PM
- ASEEEES Awards Presentations & President's Address 6:30-8PM
Mark D. Steinberg will present his presidential address, "Belief: Possibility and its Discontents."
- Film: *Oscar* 8-10:00PM
- Celebration Dance Party, with DJ Katya Suverina 9-11PM

Twitter: Follow us at @aseeestudies and use the hashtag #ASEEEES19 to share your thoughts with our community.

ASEEEES app: Scan QR code or search Apple App Store/Google Play for "ASEEEES"



51ST ANNUAL ASEES CONVENTION SPONSORS

OPENING RECEPTION: Fund for European University at St. Petersburg

PLATINUM SPONSORS: Cambridge University Press | UC Berkeley Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies | Williams College

GOLD SPONSORS: American Councils for International Education | Natasha Kozmenko Booksellers

SILVER SPONSORS: Indiana University, Russian and East European Institute | Stanford University for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies

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FILM SCREENING SPONSOR: Arizona State University, The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies

Williams



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European & Eurasian Studies



Thanks to generous contributions to the Future of the Field, ASEES offered Diversity and Inclusion Convention Travel Grants to these scholars:

- **Alexandra Artamonova**, Northwestern U, "Black Celebrities in the USSR and the Soviet Creed of Anti-racism"
- **Jonathon Dreeze**, Ohio State U, "Problematic in Form, Irrelevant in Content?: Soviet Propaganda in Kazakhstan, 1929-1930"
- **Sergii Gurbych**, Heidelberg U (Germany), "Game Concepts in the Peter Bormor's Fairy Tales as an Example of the Post-modern Play with Beliefs in Contemporary Russian-Language Literature"*
- **Barbara Kopač**, U of Ljubljana (Slovenia), "Minority Language Policy Framework in Sweden and Slovenia"*
- **Devin McFadden**, U of Kansas, "From Anna's Despair to Dionysus' Wrath: Queering the Adulterous Woman from Tolstoy to Nagrodskaia"
- **Alexandra Novitskaya**, Stony Brook U, "'The first place I went to when I came here': Russian-speaking LGBTQ Migrants' Beliefs and the Stonewall Mythology"
- **Alexander Orlov**, NRU Higher School of Economics (Russia), "The Corpus of Russian News' Headlines: Manipulation in Political Language"*
- **Jose Maria Rios**, U of Texas at Austin
- **Randall Rowe**, Ohio State U, "Migrants and Refugees to, from, and in the Balkans: Belief, Identity, Alterity, and Culture"
- **Sandra Russell**, U of Massachusetts Amherst, "Ukrainian Underground Poetry - Ukrainian Poetry and the Underground, Women of the Ukrainian Underground: The Poetry of Iryna Zhlyenko and Gendered Subjectivity in the Late Soviet Period"
- **Alicia Strong**, Yale U
- **Maria Vyatchina**, Tartu U (Estonia), "The St. Petersburg 'Museum of Donbass Valor': State Propaganda Materialized"
- **Cecil Wilson**, U of Wisconsin - Madison, "State of the Field for Transgender Slavists, 'Oh, My Grey-Haired Darling': Illness and Aging in Sophia Parnok's Ursa Major"

*alternates



New Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion

At the 2018 ASEEEES annual convention, the Board of Directors approved a Statement on Diversity and Inclusion and the formation of a new committee to address issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the profession: the [Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion \(CADI\)](#). Furthering the work and advocacy that the Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ADSEES) began several years ago, CADI is charged with upholding ASEEEES's Statement on Diversity and Inclusion. In part, this statement reads, "ASEEEES is committed in both principle and action to treating everyone with dignity and respect regardless of race, age, physical appearance, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, citizenship status, social class, physical and sensory abilities, neurodiversity, academic or professional status, political perspective, and religion." CADI strives to implement and uphold the principles in this statement through the following kinds of engagement and activity:

- CADI assesses the state of diversity and inclusion in the field and the profession at large;
- CADI promotes the inclusion of scholars of color and other students and scholars whose presence in the field is marginalized, less visible, or otherwise challenges racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against people with disabilities in society and within SEEEES;
- CADI advances critical pedagogical strategies that address racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against people with disabilities in society and within the field of SEEEES;
- CADI aims to support the recruitment, mentorship, and retention of diverse students and scholars in SEEEES;
- CADI aims to showcase the perspectives of diverse students and scholars in ASEEEES's programming;
- CADI promotes diversity in the leadership of ASEEEES.

The Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion works actively with ASEEEES's membership, other standing committees within the organization, interest groups, and affiliate organizations, such as Q*ASEEEES, when appropriate. Such cooperation will help ensure that CADI can address issues of inclusivity in SEEEES as effectively as possible.

CADI has five members, one of whom is a member of the ASEEEES Board. The remaining four Committee members are chosen from the organization's members and should represent the diversity of ASEEEES's overall membership and be willing to work actively to implement and uphold ASEEEES's Statement on Diversity and Inclusion. Members are nominated by the ASEEEES President, approved by the Board, and serve a three-year term, which may be renewed. The Committee convenes at ASEEEES's annual convention, but its work is ongoing. The inaugural members of CADI are:

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

ASEEEES members are encouraged to contact CADI directly with questions, concerns, or issues that pertain to diversity and inclusion at their own institutions, within the organization, or in their programs.

As a first effort to reach the general ASEEEES membership with its charge and mission, CADI will be presenting a Lightning Round Panel at the upcoming November convention in San Francisco. The panel is called "[Valuing Difference: Diversity, Inclusion, and the Future Direction of Slavic Studies](#)" and will take place on November 25 at 8:00am in the Pacific C Room at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. The panel will discuss efforts being made in the field to address issues of diversity and inclusion in curricula, courses, and conduct through engaged pedagogy in the classroom and beyond. Presenters will focus on curricular change, pedagogical/methodological change, and changes in administrative policies as part of the re-envisioning, development, and implementation process of effecting a transformation in SEEEES to increase inclusion and diversity. Recommendations for creating programs and policies in SEEEES that challenge racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination against people with disabilities in society and within SEEEES will be examined as part of a larger critical pedagogy. The panelists will be current members of CADI and graduate students representing diverse profiles in Slavic studies. Please join us in San Francisco to begin this important conversation in our profession and beyond.

In connection with conferences and professional development, CADI now also administers Diversity and Inclusion travel grants to the ASEEEES convention to help increase the visibility and representation of diverse profiles at these meetings. The competitive grants are awarded to students in SEEEES whose own identity and/or presentation subject will add to the diversity of the program. This year, these awards will help ten younger scholars attend the San Francisco convention. In the coming year, CADI is planning to conduct a diversity workshop as part of the 2020 ASEEEES convention in Washington, DC, to help colleagues implement policies and curricula that will promote increased diversity in their programs.

Finally, the members of CADI are deeply grateful to the tireless efforts of Julie Cassidy, Anindita Banerjee, Jennifer Suchland, and Lynda Park in moving the formation of CADI from theory to practice. Without their guidance, counsel, and support, this committee would not have come to fruition.



Publications

Alternatives to Democracy in Twentieth-Century Europe: Collectivist Visions of Modernity, by Sabrina P. Ramet, was published by Central European University Press in May 2019.

The book examines Soviet Communism, Italian Fascism, German Nazism, and Spanish Anarchism, suggesting that they had in common their shared hostility to individualism, representative government, laissez faire capitalism, and the decadence they associated with modern culture. But rather than seeking to return to earlier ways of working, these movements and regimes sought to design an alternative future that would restore the nation to spiritual and political health. In the epilogue, Ramet defends liberal democracy, highlighting its strengths and advantages. The author identifies five key choke points which would-be authoritarians typically seek to control, subvert, or instrumentalize: electoral rules, the judiciary, the media, hate speech, and surveillance, and looks at the cases of Viktor Orbán's Hungary, Jarosław Kaczyński's Poland, and Donald Trump's United States.

Slavica Publishers published a collection of articles in honor of OSU Professor Brian D. Joseph to coincide with Joseph's service as President of the Linguistic Society of America and his election to the American Philosophical Society this year.

And Thus You Are Everywhere Honored: Studies Dedicated To Brian D. Joseph (edited by James J. Pennington, Victor A. Friedman, and Lenore A. Grenoble), includes 25 articles from leading experts in the field on topics in Slavic/Balkan linguistics, historical linguistics, language contact, Indo-European, sociolinguistics, and many others.

Avant-Garde Art in Ukraine, 1910–1930: Contested Memory, by Myroslav Shkandrij, was published by Academic Studies Press in June 2019. Many avant-garde artists of the early twentieth century were Ukrainians or came from Ukraine. Whether living in Paris, St. Petersburg or Kyiv, they made major contributions to painting, sculpture, theatre, and film-making. Because their connection to Ukraine has seldom been explored, many readers are often unaware that figures such as Archipenko, Burliuk, Malevich, and Exter were inspired both by their country of origin and their links to compatriots. This book traces the avant-garde development from its pre-war years in Paris to the end of the 1920s in Kyiv. It includes chapters on the political dilemmas faced by this generation, the contribution of Jewish artists, and the work of several emblematic figures.

Celestial Hellscape: Cosmology as the Key to the Strugatskiis' Science Fictions, by Kevin Reese, was published by Academic Studies Press in June 2019. Neither Arkadii nor Boris Strugatskii had originally intended to make a living in writing. Arkadii dreamed of becoming an astronomer, but he

worked as a translator and editor of Japanese literature. Boris intended to become a physicist, trained as an astronomer, and ended up as a computer specialist. This common thread of astronomy is important for understanding their works, as their most important ones are experiments in cosmology, and their shared expertise is instrumental in their construction of literary hellscape. This book explores how the Strugatskiis' cosmological explorations are among the most fundamental elements of their art. It examines also how these explorations connect to their predecessors in the Russian literary tradition—particularly to the poetry of Pushkin.

In September 2018 Rowman & Littlefield published Eugene Huskey's memoir, *Encounters at the Edge of the Muslim World: A Political Memoir of Kyrgyzstan*. Huskey takes readers on a journey through the birth and development of Central Asia's most open society. Starting with the first days of independence and moving through the popular uprisings and inter-ethnic violence of recent years, he chronicles the struggles of a new state to establish a democratic order and to find its place in the international community, while caught between China, the Middle East, and the Russian world. At the center are the very human stories of leaders and citizens trying to navigate the transition from communism, where identities, property, and the rules of the political game were constantly in dispute. With citizens of independent Kyrgyzstan stripped of their Soviet identity, the book illustrates how alternative loyalties based on kinship, geography, statehood, and religion competed for prominence in ways that often complicated the new country's political, social, and economic development.

Floating Coast: an Environmental History of the Bering Strait, by Bathsheba Demuth (W. W. Norton & Company, August 2019), is the first comprehensive history of Beringia, the Arctic land and waters stretching from Russia to Canada.

The territory along the Bering Strait had long been home to humans -- the Inupiat and Yupik in Alaska, and the Yupik and Chukchi in Russia -- before Americans and Europeans arrived with ideas for progress. Rapidly, these frigid lands and waters became the site of an ongoing experiment: How, under conditions of extreme scarcity, would the modern ideologies of capitalism and communism control and manage the resources they craved?

Demuth shows how the social, the political, and the environmental clashed in this liminal space. Through the lens of the natural world, she views human life and economics as fundamentally about cycles of energy. *Floating Coast* is a tale of the changes and consequences that human needs and ambitions have brought, and will continue to bring, to a finite planet.

George Deák recently published a translation, with notes, of the Hungarian/Croatian writer' Ervin Sinkó's *The Novel*

of a Novel, Abridged Diary Entries from Moscow, 1935-1937.

One of the first critiques of Stalinism from within the communist movement, *The Novel of a Novel* is a memoir in the form of a journal. It was first published in Yugoslavia in 1955 based on the journal, letters, clippings, and other materials kept by the Hungarian-Jewish novelist Ervin Sinkó during his two years in Moscow between 1935 and 1937, years in which the Soviet cultural policy of the Popular Front was giving way to the Great Terror.

Catherine Portuges contributed to the book *Cinematic Reflections on The Legacy of the Holocaust* (Routledge, 2018). This book focuses on how film is particularly suited to depict Holocaust experiences with vividness and immediacy. Film has the potential to reveal the vast panorama of Holocaust history as well as its intrapsychic reverberations. The work provides a psychoanalytic lens that clarifies themes such as the repetition compulsion, survival guilt, disturbances in identity, and disruption of mourning.

Pereslavl-Zalesskii: Architectural Heritage in Photographs is volume sixteen in Discovering Russia series, written and photographed by William Craft Brumfield, and published by Tri Kvatrata publishers in 2018. The first part of the book analyzes architectural monuments in their historical context, particularly the mid-twelfth century Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Savior. The book also focuses on the town's five major monasteries, including the Trinity-Danilov Monastery, whose sixteenth-century Trinity Cathedral contains an Apocalypse fresco cycle that is among the most significant examples of medieval Russian art. The book concludes with a photographic survey of architectural monuments mentioned in the text.

In August 2018 the University of Wisconsin Press published *Russian Performances: Word, Object, Action*, edited by Julie A. Buckler, Julie A. Cassiday and Boris Wolfson. The volume brings the fields of performance studies and Russian studies into dialog for the first time, with contributions from thirty scholars in anthropology, art history, dance studies, film studies, cultural and social history, literary studies, musicology, political science, theater studies, and sociology. Their essays encompass a diverse range of topics, from modern dance and classical music to live poetry and from viral video to public jubilees and political protest.

In 2018 Princeton University Press published Victoria Smolkin's new book, *A Sacred Space Is Never Empty: A History of Soviet Atheism*, which presents the first history of Soviet atheism from the 1917 revolution to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Drawing on a wealth of archival material and in-depth interviews with those who were on the front lines of Communist ideological campaigns, Smolkin argues that to understand the Soviet experiment, we must make sense of Soviet atheism. Smolkin shows how atheism was reimagined as an alternative cosmology with its own set of positive beliefs, practices, and spiritual commitments. Through its engagements with religion, the Soviet leadership realized that removing religion from the "sacred spaces" of Soviet life was not enough. Then, in the final

years of the Soviet experiment, Gorbachev abandoned atheism and reintroduced religion into Soviet public life. *A Sacred Space Is Never Empty* explores the meaning of atheism for religious life, for Communist ideology, and for Soviet politics.

Travels from Dostoevsky's Siberia: Encounters with Polish Literary Exiles, edited and translated by Elizabeth A. Blake, was published by Academic Studies Press in June 2019. These translations, appearing in English for the first time, offer a fresh look at Dostoevsky's *House of the Dead* from the perspective of his fellow inmates and Siberians who were imprisoned, tortured, and exiled by the regime of Nicholas I. These eyewitness accounts introduce the reader to Dostoevsky's unfortunates—condemned to share his experience of Russia's carceral system with its interrogations, denunciations, and hostile spaces—whose psychoses become the writer's obsession in his celebrated crime novels.

Voices from the Soviet Edge: Southern Migrants in Leningrad and Moscow, by Jeff Sahadeo, was published by Cornell University Press. It focuses on the Uzbeks, Tajiks, Georgians, Azerbaijanis, and others who arrived toward the end of the Soviet era, seeking opportunity at the privileged heart of the USSR. In examining Soviet concepts such as "friendship of peoples" alongside ethnic and national differences, Sahadeo shows how those ideas became racialized but could also be deployed to advance migrant aspirations. He exposes the Brezhnev era as a time of dynamism and opportunity, and Leningrad and Moscow at the heart of any number of systems that linked the disparate regions of the USSR into a whole. In the 1980s, as the Soviet Union crumbled, migration increased. These later migrants were the forbears of contemporary Muslims from former Soviet spaces who now confront significant discrimination in European Russia. As Sahadeo demonstrates, the two cities benefited from 1980s' migration but also became communities where racism and exclusion coexisted with citizenship and Soviet identity.

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2020 ASEEES Convention Theme

ASEEES 52nd Annual Convention

November 5-8, 2020 • Washington, DC

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

Convention Theme: Anxiety and Rebellion

2020 ASEEES President Jan Kubik, Rutgers University and University College London (UCL)

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

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

An impulse can breed rebellion when initially inchoate sentiments are solidified into actionable guidelines. This occurs when politicians, priests or other "influencers" frame people's anxiety in terms of more or less coherent discourses or ideologies. Recently, some of these public figures have begun bringing back ideas that – we would have thought – had lost their attractiveness after the atrocities of the twentieth century. Racial and ethnic purity, unquestionable "normalcy" of heteronormativity, religious fundamentalism or advantages of authoritarianism and illiberalism are invoked with unsettling assertiveness. As a result we observe a rise of rebellions that gain influence on their countries' politics and in some cases help to install in power right wing governments.

This provokes counter-mobilizations propelled by the fear that the progress achieved under the banners of economic equality, inclusive democracy, universal human rights, racial and gender equity, and acceptance of all sexual orientations is being reversed. People who reject the certainties of "pure" race, "proper" gender roles, "true" religion, or "clean" ethnicity are increasingly vocal and alarmed that remedies designed to deal with the globalization anxiety and transformational fatigue may push the world towards another catastrophe.

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

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

Proposals from all disciplines and historical periods are welcome, and encouraged.

Deadline for ALL Submissions (panels, papers, roundtables, meeting rooms) is February 15, 2020.



Institutional Member News

CFP: 22ND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON BALKAN & SOUTH SLAVIC LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE & FOLKLORE
The 22nd biennial conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore will be held at ASU, April 2-4, 2020. The conference organizers are now accepting proposals for papers that treat some aspect of Balkan and/or South Slavic linguistics, literature, folklore, or culture.

PDFs of abstracts should be emailed to the conference email address: bssc2020@asu.edu. Abstracts should be up to 250 words, including examples and bibliography, 12-point font, at least 1" margins, and should not contain name(s) or affiliations(s) of the author(s). Abstracts should also include a title, and up to five keywords. The paper title, author name(s), affiliation(s), and contact information should be given in the body of the email. Submissions are due by October 15, 2019. Questions may be directed to the conference organizers, Keith Brown and Grace Fielder, either directly or via the conference email address.

BARD COLLEGE NEWS

Bard College is hiring a program coordinator responsible for campus relations and program support for the study abroad programs at Smolny College and the American University of Central Asia. Details can be found at <https://bit.ly/2n15XSo>

Deadlines for the scholarships and program applications for study abroad at Smolny College and AUCA are November 1, 2019. To apply: <https://www.bard.edu/bardabroad>

This summer Bard College hosted 11 undergraduates from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences of Saint Petersburg State University for an introductory science course focused on water and environment in the Hudson Valley. Students returned to Russia with an understanding of the role of citizen scientists and the value of scientific literacy.

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER

The Kennan Institute announces that its proposal for funding was selected by the U.S. Department of State Title VIII program. Please look for announcements of forthcoming competitions for our Research, Summer Research, and Short Term fellowships. Please see the website for more details on the Title VIII-supported fellowship programs: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-opportunities-and-internships>.

The Kennan Institute welcomes its current and incoming scholars:
Title VIII Research Scholars

- Jonathan Hunt, Lecturer, University of Southampton, "Atomic Condominium: The Soviet Union, the Cold War, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 1958-1975"

George F. Kennan Fellows

- Tatiana Vagramenko, Post-doctoral Researcher, University College Cork, "Religion Under Surveillance: Religion, Dissent, and Secret Police Archives in Soviet Ukraine"

- Oleksandr Zaytsev, Professor, Ukrainian Catholic University, "Retrospective Ancestral Constitution: Ultra-nationalist Movement of the 1920s-1940s in Post-Maidan Ukrainian Memory Politics"

CFP: HAVIGHURST CENTER INTERNATIONAL YOUNG RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE

The Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University (Ohio) welcomes applications from advanced graduate students and recent doctoral recipients for its Young Researchers Conference, which will take place June 13-16 in Cuma, Italy, at the Harry T. Wilks Center for Classical Studies.

This call for papers aims for a broad range of proposals with a focus on Russia, Eastern Europe, and/or Eurasia. Papers will be pre-circulated and read by the conference participants, Havighurst faculty, and the keynote speakers. Because the theme is an open one, selection will be based not just on the quality of the proposals but on the interdisciplinary themes that emerge from these proposals. This conference offers participants the opportunity to workshop their recent research.

The Havighurst Center will cover room and board and the cost of an excursion in the area. Limited travel funds are available. The deadline for the submission of the proposals is November 1st. Please send a one page abstract (no more than 500 words) and one-page CVs to the havighurstcenter@miamioh.edu with the subject 2020YRCproposal.

CfN: POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF AMERICA AWARDS

The recipients of the below awards will be recognized during the 78th Annual Meeting of PIASA in Chicago, June 12-14, 2020.

The Halecki Award recognizes a scholar in the field of Polish and East-Central European history who has written a book of particular value and significance dealing with the Polish experience or including the Polish experience within a larger East-Central European context. In the past, the Halecki Award has also recognized a scholar's outstanding body of published work. The book or body of work should represent exemplary historical research and writing. Criteria: The book or body of work must be written in English; The author must live and work in North America; The book must have been published during 2018. If the nomination is based on a body of work, it must include a significant publication within the last five years. Both books containing original research or new, original syntheses are eligible; edited collections are ineligible.

Nominations should include: A letter justifying the submission; The nominee's CV that includes a bibliography of significant publications and a list of accomplishments; Additional materials such as book reviews and letters of support. Nominations should be emailed to Piotr Wróbel (piotr.wrobel@utoronto.ca) by November 1, 2019.

The Lednicki Award recognizes the most outstanding book or creative work published, produced or presented in any of the fields within the Humanities as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities. However, since Polish history has its own PIASA award, works in this field are ineligible. Criteria: If the nomination is based on a book, film, play or literary translation, it must be written or rendered in English; The author/creator must reside and work in North America; The book or cultural product must have been published or appeared during 2018; Both books containing original research or new, original syntheses are eligible; edited collections are ineligible.

Nominations should include: A letter of justification why the particular candidate is deserving of the award; The nominee's CV that includes a bibliography of publications and/or list of the nominee's artistic accomplishments; Additional materials such as book reviews and letters of support. Email nominations to Anna Frajlich-Zajac at af38@columbia.edu by November 1, 2019.

The Malinowski Award recognizes a scholar in one of the fields of the social sciences who has written a book or seminal publication of particular value and significance dealing with an aspect of the Polish experience. In the past, the Malinowski Award has also recognized a scholar's outstanding body of published work. The book, outstanding publication or body of work should represent exemplary scholarly research published in the fields encompassed by the social sciences, including anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology, according to standards recognized by those disciplines. Criteria: The book, publication, or body of work must be written in the English language; The author must reside and work in North America; The book or publication

must have appeared during 2018. If the nomination is based on a body of work, it must include a significant publication within the last five years. Publications containing original research or new, original syntheses are eligible; edited collections are ineligible.

Nominations should include: A letter of justification why the particular candidate is deserving of the award; The nominee's CV that includes a bibliography of publications and a list of accomplishments; Additional materials such as book reviews, citation indices, and letters of support. Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials to Robert Blobaum at robert.blobaum@mail.wvu.edu by Nov. 1, 2019.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF COPERNICUS CENTER FOR POLISH STUDIES

After nearly fifty years of programming and instruction, the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies has been elevated by the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to the Copernicus Center for Polish Studies.

The Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment was established in 1973 and now, as a Center, it will pursue its mission by supporting faculty research and Polish language instruction, and by offering fellowships and internship opportunities for students. It is committed to continue bringing Poland to Ann Arbor through active programming, including the Annual Copernicus Lecture. The Copernicus Center will continue to strengthen its relationships with Polish institutions and develop new ones. It was the first US educational institution to sign an agreement with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and it will work closely with NGOs, institutions of higher learning, cultural

The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies (DSES) in collaboration with the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at The **University of Texas at Austin** invites applications for the position of tenure-track assistant or tenured associate professor of Political Science, with an anticipated start in the fall semester of 2020. We seek applications from scholars with expertise on Russia and preferably at least one other East European state, who conduct research in the requisite languages. Scholarship must focus on the Russian circulation/weaponization of (dis)information in Eastern Europe, and ideally, the larger global context. We prefer candidates whose interests span and connect quantitative and qualitative approaches, and are informed by interdisciplinary methods. We seek also candidates who are policy oriented, and who can speak to the larger national and international policy implications of their research. The selected candidate will be housed in the interdisciplinary Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies with a courtesy appointment in Government. They will be expected to exhibit a commitment to service in the DSES, CREEES, the college, and university, and be qualified to teach undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as direct graduate and undergraduate student independent research. Salary is based upon qualifications and experience.

The successful candidate for this position will be joining the UT Austin faculty as part of the Cluster and Interdisciplinary Hiring Initiative. This initiative is designed to supplement departmentally-based hiring practices and norms and extend collaborative research and scholarship. This new initiative is authorizing up to 40 new faculty hires whose interdisciplinary areas of knowledge cross the boundaries of existing academic departments. The selected candidate will be expected to actively participate as a core member of The Global Internet, Media and (Dis)Information Cluster. Contributions to the cluster will be an important facet of the faculty member's annual performance evaluations and consideration for promotion/tenure. The University of Texas at Austin is an AA/EEO employer, and requires all expected hires to undergo a criminal background check. This position is subject to final budgetary approval.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Political Science is required.

Applicants should submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and a scholarly writing sample of approximately 30 pages to Professor Mary Neuburger, Chair, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, via Interfolio <https://apply.interfolio.com/68255>. Deadline for applications is October 30, 2019 and finalists will be interviewed via Skype in November or December.

organizations, and US agencies to offer instruction and research opportunities for students and faculty.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM TO HOST 2020 EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS

Zentrum für Holocaust-Studien am Institut für Zeitgeschichte and the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) will host an exchange of scholars for PhD candidates, early postdoctoral researchers, and junior faculty members based at US and German institutions or universities. Applicants to the Center for Holocaust Studies (Germany) must be US citizens (or green-card holders) who wish to spend up to four months in Munich or Berlin. Applicants to the Mandel Center (US) must be German scholars (or permanent residents in Germany) who wish to spend up to four months at the Mandel Center in Washington, DC. Applicants should demonstrate a need to utilize the respective holdings in Munich and Washington.

US applicants should submit an application to the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History stating letter that they are applying for the Exchange of Scholars. All applications must consist of the following: An online application form at <https://www.ushmm.org/fellowship-competition> or, for German applicants: <https://www.ushmm.org/fellowship-competition>; PDF of the project proposal; PDF of CV summary; Two signed letters of recommendation that come directly from the references. All application materials should be received by the deadline of the general USHMM fellowship call.

Contact for German applicants for the Exchange of Scholars: Samantha Hinckley, Program Manager, Visiting Scholar Programs, [vscholars\[at\]ushmm.org](mailto:vscholars[at]ushmm.org)

DODGE ASSISTANTSHIPS AT THE ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM

The Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University offers Dodge Graduate Assistantships to doctoral candidates admitted to the Department of Art History who are committed to research on unofficial art of the former Soviet Union. This assistantship program provides full tuition, fees, and health benefits, as well as an annual stipend for living expenses, to Dodge Fellows. Travel funds for research or conference travel are also available.

Dodge Fellows are eligible for five years of assistantship funding. During the first three years, students work 15 hours a week in the Zimmerli's Russian and Soviet curatorial offices; the subsequent two years support dissertation research and writing without any work obligation.

Work at the Zimmerli Art Museum is supervised by Jane A. Sharp and Julia Tulovsky. The fellows perform a variety of tasks such as curatorial assistance in exhibition and catalogue production as well as administration and collection management. During the third year Dodge Fellows are given the opportunity to curate their own exhibition. Dodge Assistantships are awarded by the Department of Art History in consultation with the Zimmerli's Director and staff to incoming graduate students. Applications are due January 10, 2020. For information, contact Professor Jane Sharp at jasharp@arthist.rutgers.edu.

2019-2020 COHEN-TUCKER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM Deadline: Jan 21, 2020



The Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowships and Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Completion Fellowships, with maximum stipends of \$25,000, are available for students in any discipline whose dissertation topics are within 19th–early 21st century Russian historical studies. Please see the website for full eligibility requirements.

aseees.org/programs/ctdrf

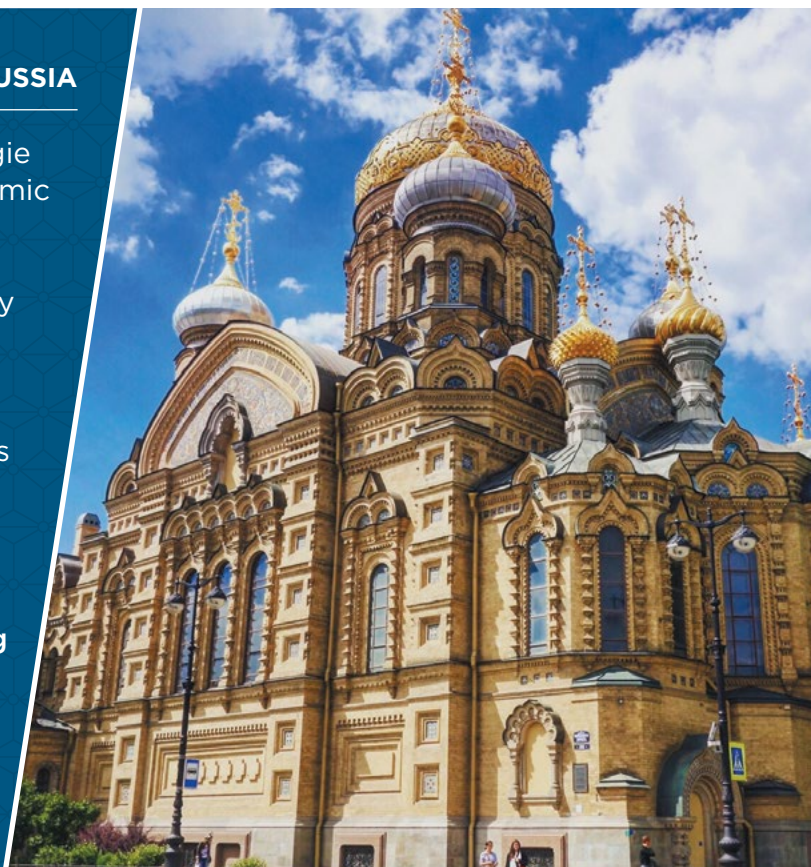
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ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS IN RUSSIA

Provided by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, Academic Fellowships in Russia supports U.S. graduate students, faculty, and independent scholars as they conduct field research for three to nine consecutive months on topics within the social science disciplines in Russia. Applications due **December 2**.

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acResearchAbroad.org/afr
outbound@americancouncils.org



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For more information, please contact: alfa@culturalvistas.org or +1 212 497 3510

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Personages

James T. Andrews (Iowa State University) has been promoted to the distinguished rank of University Professor in the Humanities. Andrews is currently working on his newest Russian archival-based research monograph on the history of the Moscow Metro from its conception in 1902 to the present.

Florian Bieber will hold the Jean Monnet Chair in the Europeanisation of Southeastern Europe at the University of Graz for the coming three years.

Rachel Feldhay Brenner was awarded the WARF (Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation) named professorship, and is now the Elaine Marks Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Polina Dimova was awarded a 2019-20 ACLS Fellowship to complete her book on Modernist synaesthesia “At the Crossroads of the Senses.” She also recently accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of Russian at the University of Denver, where she will begin teaching in Fall 2020.

Susan Grunewald was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship with the World History Center at the University of Pittsburgh.

Valerie Kivelson, an expert on early modern Russia and European history, was elected as one of 76 fellows to the British Academy, a leading institution for humanities and social sciences. The prestigious fellowship, announced July 19 by the academy, has recognized more than 1,400 of the leading academic minds worldwide for their achievements. Kivelson is one of only 20 corresponding fellows elected from universities outside of the United Kingdom.

Jonathan Larson is the new Associate Director of the European Union Center (EUC) at the University of Illinois, effective September 4, 2019. Larson currently serves on national rosters of QUIP Peer Reviewers for the Forum on Education Abroad and the Fulbright Specialist Program.

Harold “Harry” Leich retired on July 31, 2019, as the Russian Area Specialist at the Library of Congress’ European Division, a position he had since 1987. Before starting at the Library of Congress, he had been cataloger and acquisitions librarian at the Slavic and East European Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1969-1987.

Jason Lyall is the inaugural James Wright Chair of Transnational Politics, Associate Professor of Government, and Director of the Political Violence Lab at Dartmouth College.

American Councils for International Education and its Board of Trustees announced the appointment of **David Patton** as the third president and CEO to lead the 45-year-old nonprofit. Patton’s tenure as president began on August 1, 2019.

As president, Patton’s connection with American Councils comes full circle: in 1983, Patton studied abroad on American Councils’ Advanced Russian and Area Studies Program in Moscow, Russia. Ten years later, he joined American Councils as a full-time staff member in its Moscow office. Over the three decades that followed, Patton dedicated his career to international education with American Councils. He spent 13 years serving various posts in Eurasia and Southeast Europe before becoming vice president for field operations in 2002. The position as VP paved the path to his promotion to executive vice president in 2013.

Brendan Niebuurt became the Librarian for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor on August 26, 2019, upon Janet Crayne’s retirement.

Doug Rogers is the faculty director of Yale University’s new Program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Sylvia Sztern was a Post Doctoral Fellow at the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, last academic year.

Lynn Tesser will be a visiting fellow with the History and Civilization Program at the European University Institute (Oct-Nov) to work on her project, entitled: “International Politics and the Global Odyssey of the Nation-State Concept.”

Dirk Uffelmann is now Professor of East and West Slavic Literatures at Justus Liebig University Giessen.

Olga Velikanova was promoted to Professor of Russian History at the University of North Texas.

Amir Weiner, Associate Professor of Soviet History at Stanford University, is now the director of Stanford CREEES.



Affiliate Group News

CfP: BULGARIAN STUDIES JOURNAL

Bulgarian Studies is an annual online peer-edited journal that includes content related to the study of Bulgaria and its culture.

For the next issue BSJ especially welcomes contributions that consider the past three decades after the demise of socialism in Bulgaria and the scholarly engagements with them. We invite scholarly articles that focus on any aspect of the post-socialist experiences in Bulgaria from the perspectives of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Concurrently, BSJ accepts manuscripts on any other aspects related to Bulgarian history, culture, and literature. Book reviews and review articles of newer publications related to Bulgaria are also welcome. Articles that engage with comparative analysis of Bulgaria and other countries from the region and the world are particularly encouraged.

Manuscripts should be sent in Word document (.doc or .docx) to bgstudiesjournal@gmail.com, by November 1, 2019. Texts should follow the guidelines set forth in the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition. Articles should be between 6,000 and 8,000 words in length, inclusive of footnotes and appendices, and reviews should be 500 to 1,500 words in length. Please contact the Editor, Sanja Ivanov at sanja.ivanov@mail.utoronto.ca with any questions.

CfP: PIASA AND PSA JOINT POLISH STUDIES CONFERENCE

Chicago, June 12-14, 2020

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America and the Polish Studies Association are pleased to invite proposals for a joint conference to be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago, June 12-14, 2020.

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

Each session is scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or about 20 minutes per paper, with suitable time left for discussion. The conference language is English. All conference rooms will be equipped with AV for PowerPoint presentations. Presenters are invited to submit their

conference papers to be considered for possible publication in The Polish Review subsequent to the conference.

To submit a paper or complete session, please send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at [pmd639\[at\]g.harvard.edu](mailto:pmd639[at]g.harvard.edu). The deadline for proposals is February 1, though earlier submissions are welcome since capacity is limited. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee of \$80, discounted to \$40 for graduate students.

Conference organizers have also secured blocs for a limited number of rooms from two hotels within moderate walking distance (20 minutes) to the UIC campus: 1) The Hotel Chicago West Loop and 2) The Crowne Plaza West Loop. More information about making reservations at these hotels, with PROMO codes, will be sent to prospective participants.

JOURNAL FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES EDITORIAL TEAM
The Journal of Romanian Studies is the flagship periodical published by the Society for Romanian Studies in partnership with the German press Ibidem, distributed in the US by Columbia University Press. A peer-reviewed publication, the journal seeks to strengthen the field of Romanian Studies by gathering high-quality manuscripts on relevant themes written from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. The JRS has been published twice a year, in April and October, starting in 2019. Each issue contains five to eight articles together with three book reviews. Special issues are put together on topics of great scholarly interest or in anniversary years by guest editors.

SRS is calling for expressions of interest for a new editorial team to shepherd the journal for the next three years. The team will consist of two co-editors, one book editor, and an editorial assistant. Expressions of interest from individuals or teams are welcome. The co-editors should be scholars working in and familiar with Romanian Studies with a record of publications in recognized, reputable venues. The co-editors will receive manuscripts, conduct the double blinded review process, inform authors of the progress of their manuscripts, and edit submissions. The book editor commissions reviews of recent publications that are written in Romanian, English or some other language and advance knowledge in the field significantly. We are also looking for a PhD student who can serve as the editorial assistant by advertising the journal and soliciting manuscripts in consultation with the co-editors. These JRS positions are non-remunerated, but they make for great additions to any CV.

Individuals interested in any of these positions should email the search committee members the following: a one-page letter of interest outlining the position and their plans for the next three years, if accepted, as well as a complete CV, including list of refereed publications. Editorial teams should add to these a one-page description of the way in which they plan to advance

the JRS during their term, if selected.

Search committee members: Lavinia Stan lstan@stfx.ca
Margaret Beissinger, mhbeissi@Princeton.edu; Radu Cinpoes,
Radu.Cinpoes@kingston.ac.uk.

CFP 58TH ANNUAL MEETING

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES

The Fifty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will be held at the Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville, South Carolina, March 12-14, 2020. The meeting will be hosted by Clemson University. 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.

The John Shelton Curtiss Lecture will be given by Donald Raleigh, Jay Richard Judson Distinguished Professor of History at the UNC-Chapel Hill. His talk is provisionally titled "GenSec: The Brezhnev You May not Know."

Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome, as is 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.

The program committee is accepting proposals until January 15, 2020. Whole panel proposals or roundtables are preferred, but proposals for individual papers will also be accepted. Panel proposals should include the titles of each individual paper as well as a title for the panel itself and identifying information (email address and institutional affiliation) for all participants. Roundtable proposals should include a title and identifying information for all participants. Proposals for individual papers should include paper title, identifying information, and a one-paragraph abstract to guide the program committee in the assembly of panels. If any AV equipment will be needed, proposals must indicate so when they are submitted. Email your proposals to Emily Baran at scssprogram@gmail.com.

For local arrangements or conference information other than the program, please contact Steven Marks at msteven@clemson.edu. For questions regarding the program, please contact Emily Baran at scssprogram@gmail.com.

CFP: WESTERN SLAVIC AND EURASIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Call for Papers and registration are now open for the annual conference of the Western Slavic and Eurasian Association (WSEA) to be held from 1-4 April 2020, in Portland, OR at the Marriott Downtown Waterfront.

WSEA holds its annual conference as part of the Western Social Science Association. To submit a proposal for a paper or panel, please register on the Western Social Science Association website: <http://www.WSSAweb.com/sections>

WSEA encourages participation of graduate students. The best graduate paper wins a prize and will be eligible for the graduate student paper prize sponsored by the ASEES.

Please follow the instructions for submissions under the "Slavic and Eurasian Studies" section. Deadline for submission is 1 December 2019. Papers from any academic discipline covering the range of Slavic and Eurasian Studies will be accepted.

For questions, please see <http://www.wssaweb.com/upcoming-conference.html> or email evguenia@pdx.edu or patrickpatterson@ucsd.edu

FORTHCOMING IN *SLAVIC REVIEW* WINTER 2019 Vol. 78 No. 4

CRITICAL DISCUSSION FORUM: COLLAPSE OF EMPIRE/ NEW STATES, 1918–2018

Intro: Austria-Hungary as Ancien régime du jour, by Holly Case

"Central Europe as Ground Zero of the New International Order" by Natasha Wheatley

"The Paradoxical Czech Memory of the Habsburg Monarchy: Satisfied Helots or Crippled Citizens?" by Ondřej Slačálek

"1918 and a Hundred Years of Habsburg and Yugoslav Historiography" by Miloš Vojinović

CRITICAL DISCUSSION FORUM: UKRAINE IN REVOLUTION

Intro: Ukraine in Revolution, 1917–1922, by Mayhill C. Fowler

"Revolution through the Lens of Ordinary Life in Kyiv" by Olena Betlii

"Searching for the Ukrainian Revolution" by Serhy Yekelchik

"Re-thinking the Revolution in Ukraine: The Jewish Experience, 1917–1921" by Larysa Bilous

"The Geography of Revolutionary Art" by Mayhill C. Fowler

ARTICLES

"Reading Novels at the Winter Palace under Nicholas I: From the Tsar to the Stokers" by Damiano Rebecchini

"Jewish Social Mobility under Late Stalinism: A View from the Newly Sovietizing Periphery" by Diana Dumitru

"Escaping the Double Burden: Female Polish Workers in State Socialist Czechoslovakia" by Ondřej Klípa



In Memoriam

Professor Emerita **Nina Perlina** (Indiana University Slavic Department) passed away on Friday, May 24, 2019.

Perlina was born in Leningrad in 1939 and survived the Siege of Leningrad as a young child. She earned an M.A. and M.A.T. in Russian and German at the A.I. Herzen Pedagogical Institute in 1961. Perlina immigrated to the United States in 1974, and received her PhD degree from Brown University in 1977. She was on the faculties at Macalester College and Rutgers University before joining the Slavic Department at Indiana University in 1987. Perlina had wide-ranging expertise in Russian literature, and was best known as an expert on Dostoevsky. At IU she taught courses on 19th and 20th Century Russian Literature.

Perlina published with Cynthia Simmons *Writing the Siege of Leningrad: Women's Diaries, Memoirs, and Documentary Prose* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005). She was also the author of *Varieties of Poetic Utterance: Quotation in the Brothers Karamazov* (University Press of America, 1985), and *Olga Freidenberg's Works and Days* (Slavica, 2002). In 2012 Slavica published a Festschrift in honor of Professor Perlina entitled *From Petersburg to Bloomington: Essays in Honor of Nina Perlina*, edited by John Bartle, Michael C. Finke, and Vadim Liapunov.

Excerpted from text provided by Sarah D. Phillips, Director, REEI at Indiana University

Professor Emeritus **Alexander M. Schenker** passed away on August 21, 2019 at the age of 94. Born in Krakow, Poland in 1924, Schenker endured Soviet labor camps before resuming his studies in Tajikistan and then at the Sorbonne. He received his PhD in 1953 from Yale University, where he remained until his retirement in 1996. A distinguished scholar and superb teacher, he was the 2007 recipient of the AAASS Distinguished Contributions Award and the recipient of the Cross of Valor of the Highest Degree from the Polish government for his service to Polish culture. It is of note that Schenker was the only tenured professor at Yale without a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree!

At Yale University in the 1950s he was instrumental in creating its Slavic languages and literatures, culminating in what was to become a classic textbook for teaching Polish in English: *Beginning Polish* (1966). His other notable works include: *Polish Declension* (1964), *The Slavic Literary Languages: Formation and Development*, coedited with Edward Stankiewicz (1980), *The Dawn of Slavic: An Introduction to Slavic Philology* (1996), his greatest book, receiving MLA's Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures. His final publication was *The Bronze Horseman: Falconet's Monument to Peter the Great* (2003).

Excerpted from text provided by Harvey Goldblatt Acting Chair, Slavic Languages & Literatures, Yale University



Professor Emeritus **Mark von Hagen** passed away September 15, 2019.

Von Hagen came to Columbia in 1985 as Assistant Professor of History, his first job after defending his dissertation at Stanford University. During this time (1989-2001) he served as Director of the Harriman Institute. He remained at Columbia until 2007, when he left his position to take up his appointment at Arizona State University, where he was Professor of History and Global Studies with a joint appointment in the School of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies and School of International Letters and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. von Hagen was also the founding director of the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement at ASU.

Von Hagen served as President of ASEEEES (2010), President of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies, Dean of the Philosophy Faculty with the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany, and Director of the Melikian Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Von Hagen's articles, monographs, book reviews, and essays had an enormous impact on the fields of historiography, civil-military relations, nationality politics, and minority and cultural history. His influence on Ukrainian studies in particular was paradigm-shifting. He is the author of *Soldiers in the Proletarian Dictatorship: The Red Army and the Soviet Socialist State, 1917-1930* (Cornell, 1990) and *War in a European Borderlands: Occupations and Occupation Plans in Galicia and Ukraine, 1914-1918* (University of Washington Press, 2007); co-edited (with Catherine Evtuhov, Boris Gasparov, and Alexander Ospovat) *Kazan, Moscow, St. Petersburg: Multiple Faces of the Russian Empire* (Moscow, 1997); co-edited (with Karen Barkey) *After Empire: Multiethnic Societies and Nation-Building: The Soviet Union and the Russian, Ottoman and Habsburg Empire* (Westview, 1997); co-edited (with Andreas Kappeler, Zenon Kohut and Frank Sysyn) *Culture, Nation, Identity: the Ukrainian-Russian Encounter (1600-1945)* (Toronto, 2003); and coedited (with Jane Burbank) *Russian Empire: Space, People, Power, 1700-1930* (Indiana, 2007). In his final years, von Hagen oversaw editing of the first English-language translation of Pavlo Khrystiuk's *Chronicle of the Ukrainian Revolution*, an essential work on the revolutionary years of 1917-20 that the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies will soon publish with von Hagen's introduction.

Excerpted from text provided by the [Harriman Institute](#)

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

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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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