



NewsNet

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

Russian Winemaking: Back to the Future? Stephen V. Bittner, Sonoma State University

While visiting Crimea in 1837, Semen Alekseevich Iur'evich, tutor and traveling companion to the heir to the Romanov throne, described in his correspondence the new vineyards and wine cellars near Oreanda. "Crimea," Iur'evich confidently predicted, "will soon make us forget Champagne and Bordeaux." I thought of Iur'evich earlier this summer as social media wags skewered an unlikely target—the Russian wine industry. The cause for their sarcasm? On July 2, President Vladimir Putin signed amendments to a federal law regulating the production and trade of alcohol. Among the changes was a restriction on the use of the term *shampanskoe* on wine labels. The most famous houses of Épernay and Reims—among them, Moët et Chandon, Louis Roederer, and Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin—are now required to identify their Russia-bound bottles as *igrístnoe vino*, sparkling wine. As one Twitter comedian pointed out, it is as if the cheesemakers and dairy farmers of Parma stamped "processed cheese food" on their wheels of Parmigiano-Reggiano—like Champagne, a "protected designation of origin"—before export to America.¹

Russian vintners were mostly embarrassed by the unexpected attention. After the *Washington Post* sent its Paris reporter to an outdoor cafe with a few bottles of sparkling rosé from Abrau-Diurso, a former crown estate near Novorossiysk, the president of Abrau-Diurso reassured the *Post's* Moscow

reporter that, in his opinion, "real champagne" could come only from the Champagne region. It is important for Russian vintners to learn "to work in the overall landscape of the global wine industry," he said. Yet in the capital of discerning wine drinkers, there was no denying the results of the *Post's* impromptu *dégustation*. The Abrau-Diurso was sweeter than a French champagne, one cafe patron noted, but also "softer and more flowery." Another remarked, upon learning that she was drinking a Russian champagne. "I don't feel like I'm having a champagne from Russia. . . . Congratulations! Congratulations, Russia!"²

The *Post's* attempt to find humor (or at least a few more website clicks) in the news from Russia was reminiscent of a more famous moment in Russian winemaking. In 1900, a sparkling wine from Prince Lev Golitsyn's Novyi svet estate, located in the hills outside of Sudak in Crimea, won the grand prix at a tasting competition at the Exposition Universelle in Paris. Upon the conclusion of the judging, Raoul Chandon de Briailles, of the house Moët et Chandon, invited participants and judges to a celebratory lunch at the Eiffel Tower. Given the honor of the first toast, and believing he was drinking a champagne from his own house, Chandon raised a glass to his employees, the producers of the "pride of France." In Chandon's hand was the unannounced grand prix winner, a wine from distant Russia. Golitsyn later

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remarked that he could imagine no better endorsement; the president of Abrau-Diurso perhaps thought the same after reading about his wines' positive marks among the café patrons of Paris.

Despite doomsday predictions that wealthy Russians would soon be without their bottles of Dom Pérignon and Comtes de Champagne, the Franco-Russian kerfuffle faded when it became clear that the new law affected back-of-bottle Russian-language labeling, not front-of-bottle French-language trademarks and text. Mostly unnoticed in the Western media was the impact of the legal changes on the domestic wine industry. Only producers who make *shampanskoe* according to the *méthode traditionnelle*, where sugar and yeast are added to a base wine before bottling and second fermentation, which produces champagne's characteristic effervescence, are allowed to use the word on their labels. Producers using more common, mechanized forms of second fermentation, such as the Soviet-derived "continuous method," in which second fermentation and wine clarity are achieved in a series of linked tanks under five atmospheres of pressure (roughly what is found in a bottle of champagne), are relegated to the category *igristnoe vino*. Thus Soviet Champagne, now an international trademark licensed to manufacturers in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, is exempt from front-label changes, although its back labels must properly identify it as a sparkling wine. According to

Argumenty i fakty, only eighteen Russian labels are presently eligible for the *shampanskoe* designation—from Abrau-Diurso, Tête de Cheval on the Taman peninsula, Novyi svet, and other high-end producers, comprising about 10 million bottles annually. The vast majority of champagne production in Russia will henceforth be labeled "Russian sparkling wine." Even Abrau-Diurso has discovered that most of its sparkling production—about 20 million bottles annually—can no longer bear the *shampanskoe* designation.³

It is tempting to view this summer's wine war as a sequel to Russia's 2006 embargo on Georgian and Moldovan wines, which was enacted amid trumped-up concerns about pesticide contamination. Vladimir Putin has again used wine to thumb his nose at international conventions and punish his antagonists abroad. Yet the new restrictions on *shampanskoe* are perhaps better understood in light of developments that have brought the Russian wine industry into closer alignment with European practice. In 2005, Russia adopted a nomenclature for wine quality and provenance that largely resembled the French appellation d'origine contrôlée (AOC) system. At the lower end, corresponding to *vin de pays*, are wines with the designation "with appellation by origin" (or by the acronym, NP). At the upper end, corresponding to the French AOC, are wines with the designation "with controlled appellation by origin" (KNP). The latter indicates that winemakers abide by regionally



Ion Ratiu Teaching Professor in Romanian Studies

Georgetown University invites applications for the position of Ion Ratiu Teaching Professor in Romanian Studies at the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Requirements for the position are excellence in Romanian studies and proficiency in the Romanian language. Candidates will be selected on the basis of excellence in scholarship and promise of strong teaching capabilities. The

successful applicant will become a core faculty member in CERES and teach courses in support of one of the top interdisciplinary MA programs in this field and its undergraduate area studies certificate. The position is for three academic years with possibility of extension.

Applicants should submit a cover letter outlining scholarly and teaching qualifications, a c.v., three letters of recommendation, evidence of teaching preparation or teaching portfolio, and one writing sample such as a dissertation chapter or published work. SFS is committed to student and faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion. Applicants should also submit a one-page diversity statement that discusses how they would contribute to inclusive excellence in the areas of research, teaching, and service in the SFS and reflects on their teaching and mentorship of students from diverse backgrounds. Applications should be submitted at apply.interfolio.com/93969. The deadline for applications is October 15. Review of applications will begin immediately after the deadline and continue until the position is filled.

Georgetown University is an [Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action](#) Employer fully dedicated to achieving a diverse faculty and staff. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation), disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

specific guidelines governing quality and composition. In 2005, the unspoken target of Russian appellation was so-called bormotukha (from the verb “mumble”)—slang for wines sweetened with beet sugar and strengthened with grain alcohol. Sold as “strong wine,” “fortified wine,” vermouth, Sherry, or Port, bormotukha was immensely popular among Soviet consumers. It comprised the vast majority of wine production in a country that had become either the third or fourth largest producer of wine in the world by the early 1980s, trailing only France, Italy, and perhaps Spain. For the Soviet Union’s temperance lobby, bormotukha was a health scourge, no less destructive than vodka; for the Soviet Union’s small community of connoisseurs and wine snobs—mainly diplomats, cultural figures, and other elites who had access to wine from abroad—bormotukha was a crime against good taste and a betrayal of the civilizing ethos that had characterized Soviet power since its advent.⁴

As adulterated wine has become a less common feature of the marketplace in recent years, the focus of Russian appellation has shifted toward a more difficult goal: the cultivation of an appreciation among consumers for the peculiarities and serendipities of vinicultural terroir. In the late-Imperial period, it was an article of faith among ambitious vintners that the diverse landscapes of Bessarabia, southern Ukraine, Crimea, and the Caucasus, which drew sanguine but not entirely unmerited comparisons to more famous terroir elsewhere—in Mosel, Provence, and even California—would one day produce fine wines in abundance. While concern about terroir (terrua or terruar, in Russian) mostly disappeared during the Soviet period, in large part because the hyper-centralization of Soviet wine production precluded it, terroir has become one of the watchwords of the Russian

wine industry in recent years. In post-annexation Crimea, one sanguine observer has noted that local wines are on the cusp of “terroir . . . the acme of winemaking,” because of legal changes that have lowered the licensing fees on small producers. The assumption is that small producers, with single-vineyard

cuvées, are better positioned to cultivate a distinct sense of terroir in their wines than large producers such as Massandra, which sources grapes from many different regions in Crimea and even from distant Bulgaria. The Russian government has also encouraged investments in Crimean viniculture by offering generous subsidies—up to 80 percent—to offset the costs of new vineyards, although it appears that so far most recipients are agricultural corporations rather than plucky, aspiring vintners.⁵

As climate change reorders the global hierarchies of terroir, perhaps Russian winemakers—embarrassed by this summer’s social-media punchlines—will have the last laugh. While Iur’evich’s bold prediction from 1837 remains improbable, Russia is poised to become, for the first time since the late-imperial period, a vinicultural powerhouse, with influence and status matching its considerable output. The largest obstacles to its development—the old taste preferences of domestic consumers and the hyper-centralized nature of Soviet-era wine production—have already fallen. Ahead lie international tasting competitions, exports, and the demanding tastes of consumers from Paris and London to Los Angeles and Sydney—in short, the “landscape of the global wine industry.”

Stephen V. Bittner is Professor of History at Sonoma State University. His most recent book is Whites and Reds: A History of Wine in the Lands of Tsar and Commissar.



“Label for Soviet-era Crimean fortified wine.”

Endnotes

- 1 S. A. Iur’evich, “Dorozhnye pis’ma,” *Russkii arkhiv* 2 (1887): 185-6, quoted in L. A. Orekhova, “Krym skoro zastavit zabyt’, chto est’ Shampan’ i Bordo’: stranitsy istorii krymskogo vinodeliia,” in *Dionis-Vakkh-Bakhus v kul’ture narodov mira*, vyp. 2 (Simferopol, Ukr., 2005), 18; “France in a fizz over Russia’s champagne label law,” *BBC News*, July 6, 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57733684>.
- 2 Rick Noack and Isabelle Khurshudyan, “Russia to France’s Champagne region: Sorry to burst your bubble, but here you’re just ‘sparkling wine,’” *Washington Post*, July 8, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russia-putin-french-champagne-wine/2021/07/07/2278767a-dc00-11eb-8c87-ad6f27918c78_story.html.
- 3 Elena Slobodian, “Kakoe igristnoe vino schitaetsia luchshim rossiiskim shampanskim,” *Argumenty i fakty*, July 30, 2021, https://aif.ru/food/products/kakoe_igristoe_vino_schitaetsya_luchshim_rossiiskim_shampanskim; Ekaterina Burlakova, “Vinodely prosiat vvesti moratorii na deistvie novogo zakona, izmenivshego klassifikatsiiu vin,” *Vedomosti*, July 30, 2021, <https://www.vedomosti.ru/business/articles/2021/07/30/880152-vinodeli-prosyat>.
- 4 “Konets bormotukhi,” *Zolotoi rog*, November 1, 2005.
- 5 “Konets bormotukhi,” *Zolotoi rog*, November 1, 2005; Adam Walker and Paul Manning, “Georgian Wine: The Transformation of Socialist Quantity into Postsocialist Quality,” in *Wine and Culture: Vineyard to Glass*, ed. Rachel E. Black and Robert C. Ulin (London, 2013), 205; “Vinogradarstvo i vinodelie: novaia kontseptsiiia razvitiia,” *Slava Sevastopolia*, July 21, 2016, 3; Rafael Zalian, “Terruarnye vina: vershina vinodeliia,” *Krymskaia pravda*, July 8, 2016, 2.

Intersectionality in Focus:

From Critical Pedagogies to Research Practice and Public Engagement in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated pre-existing institutional, structural, and systemic discrimination and inequality in societies across the world. Furthermore, continued campaigns against gender and LGBTQ equity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, racism in the United States, and the social protest movements that rose in response to such exclusionary projects have reinforced calls for intersectional approaches in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (SEES). Class, ethnicity and race, dis/ability, gender and sexuality, and other identity markers interweave to produce inequality differently in Eastern Europe and Eurasia than in the Americas or Western Europe. Yet, it is these very differences that provide a rich ground for intellectual conversations in our field.

REGISTER AT:
ucis.pitt.edu/crees/intersectionality-in-focus

PEDAGOGY AND PRACTICE

OCTOBER 8

Addressing Intersectionality Through Course Design

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: **Thomas Garza**, University of Texas at Austin
PRESENTERS: **Frank Karioris**, University of Pittsburgh
S.A. Karpukhin, University of Wisconsin-Madison

OCTOBER 15

Challenges and Creative Practices in the Classroom

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: **Meredith Roman**, SUNY Brockport
PRESENTERS: **Anika Keinz**, Independent Scholar
Michael Kunichika, Amherst College

NEW DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH

OCTOBER 22

Queer Studies

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: **Dan Healey**, University of Oxford
PRESENTERS: **Anita Kurimay**, Bryn Mawr College
Renee Perelmutter, University of Kansas

OCTOBER 29

Imperial Pasts in the Present: Affect, Indigeneity, and Memory

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: **Asli Igsiz**, New York University
PRESENTERS: **Hakem Al-Rustom**, University of Michigan
Vladislav Beronja, University of Texas at Austin

Future sessions forthcoming in Spring 2022



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THE ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES THE WINNERS OF THE 2021 ASEES PRIZES

Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Award

Donald J. Raleigh, Jay Richard Judson Distinguished Professor of History at the UNC-Chapel Hill

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

Ana Hedberg Olenina, *Psychomotor Aesthetics: Movement and Affect in Modern Literature and Film* (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: Ronald Grigor Suny, *Stalin: Passage to Revolution* (Princeton University Press)

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

Carol Any, *The Soviet Writers' Union and Its Leaders. Identity and Authority under Stalin* (Northwestern University Press)

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

Krista A. Goff, *Nested Nationalism: Making and Unmaking Nations in the Soviet Union* (Cornell University Press)

Anita Kurimay, *Queer Budapest 1873-1961* (University of Chicago 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

Gulnaz Sharafutdinova, *The Red Mirror: Putin's Leadership and Russia's Insecure Identity* (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: Kathryn Graber, *Mixed Messages: Mediating Native Belonging in Asian Russia* (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

Thane Gustafson, *The Bridge: Natural Gas in a Redivided Europe* (Harvard University Press)

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

Fabio Mattioli, *Dark Finance: Illiquidity and Authoritarianism at the Margins of Europe* (Stanford 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

Francine Hirsch, *Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg: A New History of the International Military Tribunal After World War II* (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: Dominique Kirchner Reill, *The Fiume Crisis: Life in the Wake of the Habsburg Empire* (Harvard University Press)

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

Molly Pucci, *Security Empire: The Secret Police in Communist Eastern Europe* (Yale University Press)

Honorable Mention: Adam Teller, *Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century* (Princeton University Press)

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

Andriy Zayarnyuk, *Lviv's Uncertain Destination: A City and Its Train Terminal from Franz Joseph I to Brezhnev* (University of Toronto Press)

Honorable Mention: Oleksandra Wallo, *Ukrainian Women Writers and the National Imaginary: From the Collapse of the USSR to the Euromaidan* (University of Toronto Press)

Honorable Mention: Jessica Zychowicz, *Superfluous Women: Art, Feminism, and Revolution in Twenty-First-Century Ukraine* (University of Toronto 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

Pey-yi Chu, *The Life of Permafrost: A History of Frozen Earth in Russian and Soviet Science* (University of Toronto Press)

Greg Afinogenov, *Spies and Scholars: Chinese Secrets and Imperial Russia's Quest for World Power* (Harvard University Press)

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

Moira O'Shea, "We Took the National Game and Turned It into a Sport: Playing Kok Boru and Re-Inventing Tradition in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan"

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

Virginia Carter Olmstead McGraw, "Soviet by Design: Fashion, Consumption, and International Competition during Late Socialism, 1948-1982" (UNC, Chapel Hill, History)

CLIR Distinguished Service Award

Wojciech Zalewski, Curator for Slavic and East European Collections Emeritus and Bibliographer for Religious Studies at the Stanford University Libraries

Tatjana Lorkovic, Curator of Slavic and East European Collections at Yale University Library, retired

Prize winners will be recognized during the ASEEEES Annual Convention award ceremony on Saturday, November 20. Full citations will be available on our website.

ASEEEES GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE NAMED IN HONOR OF BETH HOLMGREN



We're delighted that the ASEEEES Graduate Student Essay Prize has now been named in honor of Professor Beth Holmgren. Holmgren is Professor of Polish and Russian Studies at Duke University; she has published widely on Polish and Russian literature, theater, film, and women's studies. The prize has been named in honor of Professor Holmgren not only for her stellar scholarship but for her extraordinary dedication to mentoring graduate students and junior scholars in the field. She also served as the ASEEEES President in 2008. The Essay Prize now comes with an award of \$300, along with free domestic air travel to the convention, accommodations, registration, and the following year's ASEEEES membership.

To honor Professor Holmgren, please consider making a contribution to the
[Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize Endowment Fund](#)



The National Council for Eurasian and East European Research invites proposals for the
2022 NATIONAL RESEARCH COMPETITION &

2022 DISSERTATION COMPLETION GRANT

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2021

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 collaborative Research Contracts is \$40,000 and for individual Research Grants is \$20,000. 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, 2022. Scholars and researchers should schedule their research activities so as to complete and submit all project requirements to NCEEER by September 30, 2024. 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 DISSERTATION COMPLETION GRANT

The NCEEER Dissertation Completion Grant supports U.S. citizens who are in an advanced stage (fifth year and above) of a doctoral program at a U.S. institution and will have no more than one year of dissertation work outstanding. Projects will concern topics that are relevant to *current U.S. foreign policy* on Eurasia and Eastern Europe that have the potential to make a significant contribution to the state of the field. Awardees will work within an approved research plan that includes measurable quarterly milestones for chapter and dissertation completion, and which is approved by the candidate's dissertation committee. The maximum award is \$25,000 and the award period is 9-12 months, beginning as early as March 1, 2022.

*FUNDS FOR BOTH PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED UNDER THE TITLE VIII PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON EASTERN EUROPE AND THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE - BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

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, 2021. NCEEER's Board of Directors will evaluate the competitions and applicants will be notified of the outcome by March 1, 2022.



The Making of a Modern Digital Archive

Julie Reines Chervinsky, Blavatnik Archive Foundation

In 2004, Len Blavatnik, the founder and chairman of Access Industries, was presented with the opportunity to acquire a collection of 10,000 postcards offering rare insights into various aspects of Jewish history and heritage. I joined the Blavatnik Family Foundation shortly thereafter, and I remember the first time I looked through the blue albums holding the future [Judaica Postcards](#) collection, mesmerized by the images and messages from places and people that are now long gone. Assembled over the course of decades by an anonymous postcard collector, these cards were neatly organized into geographic and subject categories. They hailed from Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, North America, North Africa, and Palestine, and “spoke” in different languages. Some portrayed scenes of daily life, offering photos and illustrations of synagogues, marketplaces, schools, and other community spaces. Others reflected more topical concerns, like holidays, contemporary personalities, or political and cultural events. Another subset dealt with the darker aspects of the Jewish experience, focusing on anti-Semitic tropes and depictions that circulated in the first half of the twentieth century. While I wasn’t able to decipher the handwritten messages, I was drawn to what seemed like a new way to engage with the past and get a glimpse into the thoughts, attitudes, and lived experience of the people exchanging these postcards decades—sometimes nearly a century—earlier.

This personal fascination was accompanied by the impression that the collection could be a treasure trove for researchers and students. While in the past postcards have been of interest primarily to collectors and dealers, there is now a growing interest in these objects as art pieces, popular culture artifacts, personal correspondence, and historical testimony. In 2005, when the Blavatnik Archive Foundation was created, these initial impressions formed the blueprint for our institutional focus: preserving materials that reflect the lived human experience of modern history; ensuring wide, open access to these materials for

scholars and the general public; and presenting these materials in a visually appealing format that encourages deeper appreciation and engagement.

Soon, new collections were added that focused on areas of Jewish history, Russian and Soviet history, and overlapping topics within these fields. The Archive acquired a collection of wartime “triangle” letters sent by Soviet soldiers fighting on the front lines in World War II. Due to paper shortages, instead of being placed in an envelope, front-line letters were often folded into a triangle, with space for the recipient’s address on the outside of the triangle and the personal message inside. While looking through the collection, we noticed the names suggested that senders and recipients were Jewish. It was remarkable that these letters survived the brutal total war in Soviet territory, and while we had little hope of identifying and locating the writers, we wanted to learn more about the presence and roles of Jewish soldiers in the ranks of the Red Army.

In order to add their stories to the more familiar narratives about the Jewish experience of World War II and the Holocaust, we launched a long-term project to record the testimonies of Jewish soldiers who had fought in the Soviet armed forces and partisan detachments. Between 2006 and 2014, we visited nearly 1,200 veterans in 78 cities across 11 countries, recorded over 1,500 hours of video testimonies,



MIL.00044: “Triangle letter sent by a soldier named Mikhail Mindlin to his wife in May 1944. Mikhail describes improvements in food availability, expresses his firm belief in the inevitability of victory, and asks about their daughter’s school grades.”



LEN.00637: "Forward until the total annihilation of the enemy!" Postcard published in Leningrad during World War II (19

and digitized more than 11,700 ephemera artifacts, including photographs, documents, letters, and diary pages. The veterans, eager to share "that which can never be forgotten," told us about their enlistment and first experience of battle, relationships with their comrades, battle losses and successes, idealism and disillusionment, and the unique challenges facing Jewish soldiers. Today, the Archive's Veteran Testimonies & Ephemera project is the largest collection of materials dealing with the experience of Jewish soldiers in the Soviet armed forces during World War II. On November 14 and 15, 2021, the Blavatnik Archive will be hosting a virtual conference titled "Jewish Soldiers and Fighters in World War II," with presentations and discussions by nearly forty leading experts from universities, archives, libraries, and museums around the world. Information and registration are available at JewishSoldiersInWWII.org.

We are a growing archive. Our acquisitions tend to focus on medium types and subject areas that are not often found at other institutions, and which supplement and enhance our existing holdings. Whenever possible, we aim to offer materials that present comprehensive frameworks for engaging with particular historical moments or topics. In some cases, the collections provide a broad perspective on a variety of diverse subjects. For instance, the [WWI Postcards](#) collection, comprised of 52,000 German, French, Italian, Romanian, and Bulgarian cards, among others, visually reflects subjects ranging from battlefields

and military leaders to military hygiene and discipline to humor, art, and music, and offers thousands of handwritten messages between combat and home fronts. By browsing this collection, a user can catch glimpses of a wide range of state and individual concerns and experiences of the First World War. Another collection, [Leningrad-Published Postcards](#), contains around 1,300 postcards printed in the Soviet Union during the devastating Siege of Leningrad that claimed a million civilian lives during World War II. These postcards allow for the exploration of topics like the propaganda strategies of the Soviet state, the striking variety of artistic styles employed by the postcards' artists, and the desperate attempts of the city's residents to convey their experience and maintain connection despite the disaster unfolding around them and the strict censorship imposed by the state.

Other collections, such as the [Kantsedikas Family Letters](#), have a narrower focus. This collection is composed of 665 letters sent between 1942 and 1945 by Solomon (Sergey) Kantsedikas (Cohen-Tsedek) and his wife, Elisheva. The letters reflect the evolving wartime experience of a young Jewish couple devoted to each other and to their Soviet, Communist ideals, striving to preserve their connection and hope for the future despite the distance and deprivations brought on by the war. Another collection based on a family archive, [the Moscow State Yiddish Theater](#) collection, is an important and rich resource on the history of the GOSET (Gosudarstvennyi evreiskii teatr, Russian acronym of the Moscow State Yiddish Theater) and Soviet Yiddish culture in general compiled by Iustina Minkova (1895-1979) and Solomon (Zalmen) Zil'berblat (1897-1977), Yiddish actors and members of the GOSET troupe. The collection comprises 581 items, including 147 photographs, 2 drawings, and 432 documents and books in Russian, Yiddish, Ukrainian, Hebrew, German, and French.

The Archive's content management system and website, www.BlavatnikArchive.org, offer high-quality digital access to its 17 collections to facilitate scholarly research and appeal to a broad audience. On the level of individual items, we offer high-resolution scans of all visual materials: searchable transcripts and translations and detailed subject-term indexing that enables users to filter searches based on particular topics (such as women in the military, daily life on the front lines, or emotional reaction to combat), contributors (such as artists, photographers, or publishers), geography, and time periods. Our website also incorporates the International Image Interoperability Framework protocol, designed by a consortium of universities and museums to allow for sharing of images and annotations among institutions and individuals. As

we expand our holdings, we also continue to improve our infrastructure and technical capabilities and add more scholarship-focused tools, such as the option to create individual user folders where items can be saved for further study or sharing with colleagues and students.

While our initial focus was on providing full access to and ensuring findability of as many of our holdings as possible, we are currently working on expanding the curated storytelling aspects of our website for more general audiences. We are partnering with scholars and field experts to generate narratives that bring together related items and elucidate specific themes, like the relationship between the cultural revolution in the Soviet Union and the Yiddish Theater, or the origins and evolution of a particular anti-Semitic trope with ongoing relevance. As our infrastructure evolves, we aim to incorporate multimedia elements (such as, for instance, song recordings or archival video) into these narratives. We hope to debut the new story templates in October 2021.

As of September 2021, 14,939 items are available and accessible on the website, including over 10,000 postcards, nearly 2,000 photographs, nearly 1,000 letters, over 200 testimonies, and 11 full-length diaries. We invite you to explore our collections at www.BlavatnikArchive.org/collections.

Julie Reines Chervinsky is the director of the Blavatnik Archive Foundation. Julie was born in St. Petersburg and emigrated first to Israel and then to the United States, where she received her bachelor's degree in journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. She has led the Archive since its founding and is currently focused on building collaborative institutional partnerships and encouraging expert content contribution, as well as developing strategies to bring the Archive's materials to students and the wider general public.

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye et al., eds. *Russian International Relations in War and Revolution, 1914–22, 1: Origins and War, 1914–16*, xxii + 446 p.; 2: *Revolution and Civil War*, xviii + 416 p., 2021 (ISBN 978-089357-436-9; 978-089357-437-6), \$44.95.

Written by scholars from North America, Europe, Russia, and Japan and making abundant use of Russian archives, these essays are diverse in approach: some focus on traditional “diplomatic history,” while others adopt new “international history” by placing Russia’s relations with the world in their social, intellectual, economic, and cultural contexts. Arranged in roughly chronological order, book 1 covers the late imperial period (1914–mid-1916), while book 2 examines the 1917 revolutions and the Civil War (1918–22).

Korine Amacher et al., eds. *Personal Trajectories in Russia’s Great War and Revolution, 1914–22: Biographical Itineraries, Individual Experiences, Autobiographical Reflections*, xviii + 378 p., 2021 (ISBN 978-0-89357-438-3), \$44.95.

This collection of essays investigates how the revolutionary events of 1917–21 shaped biographies both in Russia and Western Europe and how people tried to make sense of the political developments during these years in self-testimonies like diaries and memoirs. Examining a plurality of stories, perceptions, and interpretations, these essays analyze the trajectories of men and women with very different origins, social backgrounds, and political commitments. Finally, the construction of revolutionary narratives and memories is addressed.



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

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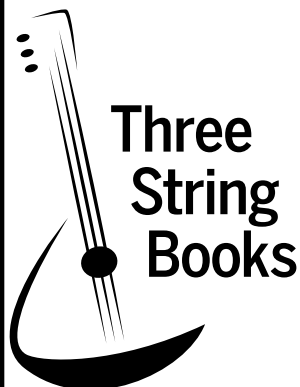
Review Essay

CAROLINE FERNANDEZ AND DAVID BRANDENBERGER
Narrating the Blockade

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.

Anna Starobinets. *Look at Him*, trans. Katherine E. Young, xii + 151 p., 2020 (ISBN 978-089357-503-8), \$19.95.

In this groundbreaking memoir, Anna Starobinets chronicles the devastating loss of her unborn son to a fatal birth defect. A finalist for the 2018 National Bestseller Prize, *Look at Him* ignited a firestorm in Russia, prompting both high praise and severe condemnation for the author’s willingness to discuss long-taboo issues of women’s agency over their own bodies, the aftereffects of abortion and miscarriage on marriage and family life, and the callousness and ignorance displayed by many in Russia in situations like hers.



Miroslav Maksimović, *Pain*, trans. John Jeffries and Bogdan Rakić, viii + 104 p., 2021 (ISBN 978-089357-508-3), \$19.95.

The fourteen sonnets of *Pain* deal with a historical event from August 1941, when the entire Serbian population of the village of Miostrah were massacred by their Muslim neighbors. Among the more than 180 slaughtered women and children were all the members of Maksimović’s mother’s immediate family. Thirteen years of age, Maksimović’s mother miraculously survived and joined the anti-fascist partisan forces.

Using her tragedy as a paradigm for a national trauma, Maksimović created a work that both contributes to the Serbian culture of remembrance and oversteps the boundaries of memorial literature as it celebrates the triumph of poetry over historical evil.



What Does Post-Socialism Taste Like?

Tyler Adkins, Princeton University

The wedding was over at last. Having come to a small, mountain village in Russia's Altai Republic to study the foodways of the Altai national group, I had jumped at my neighbor's offer to take me along as he cooked for the wedding guests. What resulted had been participant ethnography in a literal sense: after a day stoking fires, stirring cauldrons of mutton and barley stew, frying balls of dough in pungent sheep lard, and finally consuming heaps of these dishes, I was more interested in taking a nap than taking fieldnotes.

Many of the village men with whom I had been cooking for the wedding feast were now chatting in the shade of a parked KAMAZ. Seeking some shelter from the August sun, I snuck away from the quieting festivities. I joined their conversation in medias res. "Willow buds," my neighbor, Yura, affirmed, "They used willow buds, or they would leave a willow branch over winter in a barrel of milk, and then, by spring, you would have *könörgö*." I quickly gathered that they were talking about the ways in which one could obtain a starter culture—or *zakvaska*, in Russian—for fermenting milk into *chegen*, the kefir-like base from which milk-vodka, or *araky*, is eventually distilled. While there had been plenty of store-bought vodka at the wedding, there was no homemade milk-vodka on the tables, a fact which had not escaped the village old-timers.

Conversation had turned to why so few people in the village continued to make milk-vodka, despite its ubiquity at events like weddings just a decade ago. The subtle taste of *araky*—at its best bracingly but not overpoweringly alcoholic, with pleasant hints of wood smoke—no longer joined the smell of boiling mutton and the sound of folk songs in the sensory landscape of the Altai wedding. Although not absent, other traditional dairy products were also noticeably sparse: while the result of fermenting and distilling milk is alcohol, the numerous byproducts of these processes are historically just as, if not more, important to pastoralist Altai households than *araky* itself. These byproducts include some of the cornerstones of the Altai diet, perhaps most importantly the distinctive smoked cheese known as *kurut*, which is formed from the curdled mass left behind after distilling

araky from *chegen*. Portable, calorically dense, and shelf-stable for up to a year, *kurut* has been a key provision of Inner Asian pastoralists like the Altai people for centuries.

While still consumed by many, all of these *chegen*-derived products had become less common in recent decades. Some of the men blamed the vicissitudes of the post-Soviet economy. It was, they explained, simply no longer economically viable to keep milking cattle instead of fast-maturing meat breeds. But, as Yura argued, the difficulty of making milk-vodka also stemmed from the complexity of obtaining a good starter or *könörgö*. A viable starter was the crucial foundation of the entire process of producing an array of Altai dairy products, from *chegen*, to *kurut*, to *araky*. Improperly fermented *chegen* would not only be unpleasant to drink by itself, but would also produce poor *araky* when distilled, and all of the resultant byproducts of the distillation process would likewise be unappetizing. Those families which still made *chegen* on a regular basis prided themselves on the unique taste conferred by their starter: villagers often claimed to be able to tell which family had produced *kurut* by the taste alone, and the particular *könörgö* of a household was not just a means of microbial production, but a kind of self-



propagating family heirloom. The best *könörgö* is *chegen* still in the process of fermentation: one simply adds fresh milk to a barrel partially filled with *chegen* and voilà: more *chegen*.

Failing this, one could always obtain a starter from relatives or neighbors. However, as fewer and fewer villagers continued to make *chegen*, getting a starter from neighbors was often no longer possible. If you need to start a *chegen* fermentation from scratch in such a situation, you would have to try to capture ambient yeast and bacteria from nature: from the cones of wild hops, or, as Yura said, willow buds which would be placed in fresh milk.

This conversation recalled a similar one I had had with my host Natalya just a few weeks before. Talking to a visitor from another village, Natalya asked if the guest could find a barrel maker for her: one who would take a commission to build a large *küp* or wooden barrel for fermenting *chegen*. When the visitor left, I asked Natalya why she would want to commission a wooden barrel. She was an avid fermenter of *chegen*—mostly using glass jars—but I could not understand why she would want an old-fashioned vessel like a barrel. A wooden barrel, she explained to me, was the only way to produce real *chegen*, the kind which she remembered from her late-Soviet childhood. The ideal barrel for the job would be made from larch or aspen—cedar or pine would leave an unpleasant resinous taste,

and birch would simply rot too quickly. The right barrel would also be charred on the inside: this, according to my host, imparted a nice, smoky taste to the *chegen* stored in it. But most importantly, the resulting porous nature of the wooden barrel would provide a habitat for yeast and bacteria. Over repeated uses, such a barrel would gradually become colonized by these microorganisms, becoming a kind of fermentation-starter in and of itself. One could pour fresh milk into a truly well-seasoned barrel and its resident microbial organisms would get to work, without any need for an exogenous starter. In the past, fermentation vessels made out of cured leather had also been used for the same purpose: the pores in the animal skin allowed persistent microbial communities to take root and ferment any milk placed in the vessel.

Barrels and leather vessels like this had once been common in the village. I would often see derelict barrels in the barns and sheds of friends. New barrels, however, had become a rarity in recent years. While nearly every family had a barrel or two as late as the 1980s, only a few local craftsmen continued making them. These bespoke barrels were now in high demand among those villagers who still made *chegen* or distilled it into *araky*, an increasingly rare means to create the “real” *chegen* of their Soviet childhoods.

“In the old days,” my neighbor Maria, a retired collective farmer in her seventies, said, gesturing to the bowl of ground barley on the table. “If someone was making *talkan*, the entire street could smell it.” She lifted the bowl to her nose. “Now you can stick your face in it and not smell anything.” We were relaxing in the summer kitchen after a day of shearing sheep, and despite the heat in which we had been working since nearly dawn, Maria was sipping a hot cup of tea. She drank this in the style popular in the village: she added milk, a bit of salt, and a spoonful of *talkan*, the fried barley which was the subject of her current deposition. Making *talkan* was a labor-intensive process of course, she continued, but young people these days were either too occupied with making money or simply too lazy to make it themselves. “When I was young,” she said, “we’d wake up at dawn, work all day long in the collective farm, and then come home in the evening and make Altai food like *talkan*. Now young people have all sorts of conveniences and still say they have no time.”

Maria was by no means alone in her critical assessment of the sad state of contemporary *talkan*. During



my fieldwork the topic of *talkan* came up frequently in my conversations. It seemed as though everyone had detailed—and usually negative—evaluations of the *talkan* sold in stores. This store-bought *talkan* fared particularly poorly in comparison with the homemade *talkan* of my interlocutors' late-socialist youths. While the new *talkan* was admittedly convenient, my interlocutors complained that it was flavorless or—even worse—had a metallic or plastic taste; its texture was likewise too fine, and no longer mixed correctly with tea. Others even complained that its color was more pallid than the old-fashioned *talkan*, which had a rich brown hue to match its freshly roasted aroma. In other words, *talkan* had remained *talkan*, but only just.

While the complaints were various, the quality of contemporary *talkan* was usually attributed to the production methods used to make it. Although *talkan* had been produced with wooden and stone implements as late as the 1990s, the firms producing it today did so with industrial roasters and coffee grinders. This new mechanized production method, villagers complained, simply produced an inferior product, imparting off-flavors while failing to replicate the taste of “real” *talkan*. Older generations of farmers were the most vociferous in these kinds of complaints, but surprisingly even younger, urban adults in the Republic's capital of Gorno-Altaysk voiced similar sentiments, even though they may have only tasted “real” handmade *talkan* once or twice in their childhoods. All of these complaints aside, both urban and rural Altai people continue to consume *talkan* as a daily staple in much the same way they and their parents had during the late Soviet period; along with *araky* and *kurut*, *talkan* is a kind of synecdoche for Altai cuisine as a whole, and even people who do not consume it regularly will at least keep a small bowl of it on the table out of courtesy for guests.

Many of my older interlocutors had detailed memories of making *talkan* at home in their childhoods during the 1960s and 70s. The first step would be separating the barley from its hull by manually crushing it in a large wooden mortar called a *soky*; the barley would then be sifted by tossing it on a wooden tray; the kernel would then be fried in sheep fat at high temperatures in a cast-iron pan, after which it would then be hand ground with a stone mortar called a *baspak*. In addition to requiring much time and physical labor, making *talkan* in this manner also required a good deal of skill, as the barley could be easily burned if not removed from the pan at the precise moment, and grinding the roasted kernels to the desired consistency with minimal exertion also required finesse only honed with years of practice.

Beginning in the late 1990s, several Altai entrepreneurs discovered that this onerous process could be scaled upward and mechanized by using equipment designed for roasting coffee beans, namely electric roasters and grinders. With the introduction of a mechanized process, *talkan* became a commercially available commodity for the first time, and at the time of my last visit to the Republic, it was almost ubiquitous in supermarkets in all but the most remote areas of Altai Republic. This *talkan*, sold in plastic bags and decorated with traditional Altai motifs, has also increasingly been marketed to tourists, whose numbers in the Republic have increased greatly since the 2000s.

For many of my interlocutors, the decline of handmade *talkan* is the story of the restructuring of time and labor in the former collective farm since *perestroika*. Older collective farmers like my friend's aunt attributed the decline of homemade *talkan* and the subsequent popularity of commercial *talkan* to the “laziness” of younger generations: they preferred to spend their free time making money in various side hustles, or watching television rather than making traditional Altai foods, creating a demand for low quality but convenient *talkan*. For their part, younger generations of farmers defended themselves by saying that they quite simply had no free time. Whereas during the *kolkhoz* labor was distributed between various specialists (tractorists, agronomists, veterinarians etc.), following the privatization of the collective farm individual proprietors became responsible for all of these tasks simultaneously. As one of my interlocutors, a former tractor operator put it: “Now I'm the tractorist, the veterinarian, the accountant, and when I die, I'll probably have to dig the grave myself.” Consequently, my interlocutors frequently stated that they were too busy balancing all of these disparate responsibilities to dedicate the time and labor to producing *talkan* for themselves. Thus, while the *talkan* now available on the shelves might not be up to snuff, it was now the only feasible option to keep the staple food on the table.

Then there are those Altai people of rural origins who have moved to more urban areas to pursue occupations in the public or service sectors. While they complained about commercial *talkan* like their relatives in the country, they appreciated its availability in stores as a way to continue Altai culinary traditions despite the increased mobility of younger generations from villages to the larger towns and cities in search of work.

What is striking about these stories of *araky* and *talkan* is not so much their historical accuracy as the way they

condense a whole host of abstract changes in rural Altai society into the narrative of a single product. Privatization, marketization, the outflux of the younger generation from rural areas—my informants found ways of telling all of these complex histories as a story of food and its transformations. Altai food is not simply a brute materiality, nor a lost object of nostalgia but a narrative tool for capturing the changes of the late Soviet and early post-Soviet periods. To rework Claude Lévi-Strauss's statement that "food is good to think with," food seems to be good to tell post-Soviet history with.¹

The "archive" and the "field" often seem to exist in completely different scholarly universes. As an anthropologist with an interest in late socialism, I often find myself in the latter, albeit with a great deal less aplomb than my historian colleagues. And yet what—and where—is the archive of post-socialism in this small Altai village? Documents in local and regional administrative centers? State archives in Moscow? Certainly. But then there is also the subterranean archive of the senses, often existing in the murky space between language and reflexive habit, waiting to be excavated at a kitchen table over tea and not-quite-real *talkan*. And this archive—as definitionally elusive as it may be—can nonetheless be an immensely fecund source of historical information: as with the above discussions of *araky* and *talkan*, the seemingly trivial details of sensory worlds can become condensation points for narratives of tectonic social change. This ephemeral

archive of the (post-) Soviet sensorium confounds the comfortable disciplinary toponymy of field and archive, and yet precisely for this reason, it is a perfect site for interdisciplinary collaboration between the varied methodological camps of post-Soviet studies. At the very least, we would get some good meals out of it.

Tyler B. Adkins is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Princeton University. His dissertation ethnographically examines the temporalities and materialities of forms of life in Russia's Altai Republic, with a specific focus on Altai foodways. He was a Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellow in 2019-20.

Endnotes

1 Claude Lévi-Strauss, *The Raw and the Cooked: Mythologiques, Volume 1* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983).

ASEEES Announces the Results of the 2021 Board of Directors Elections

Congratulations to those elected to serve on the ASEEES Board of Directors:



Vice President/President Elect 2022-2024:

Juliet Johnson, Professor of Political Science, McGill University (Canada)

Members-at-Large 2022-2024:

Andy Janco, Digital Scholarship Librarian, Haverford College

Kimberly E. Zarecor, Professor of Architecture, Iowa State University



Graduate Student Representative 2022-2023:

Zachary Hicks, PhD candidate in Slavic Languages and Literatures, UC Berkeley

These new board members will begin their work on January 1, 2022. We thank them and the other candidates for their willingness to serve the association and the profession. We also thank our members for voting.

2021 ASEES IN PERSON CONVENTION

NOV. 18-21, 2021 • NEW ORLEANS, LA

#ASEES 21 VIRTUAL CONVENTION

DEC. 1-3, 2021

REGISTRATION

Registration ends October 13. Registration at the In-Person level also grants full access to the virtual convention also.

IN PERSON SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, November 18

- Opening Reception
- Film: *Active (citizen)* by Piotr Goldstein & Jan Lorenz

Friday, November 19

- Film: *This is Edik: A Tale of a Gifted and Stolen Childhood* by Roman Super and Ivan Proskuryakov
- Vice President-designated Roundtable: Academic Precarity: Labor, Race, Gender, and More
- Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, November 20

- Presidential Plenary: Diversity and Access in the Profession
- ASEES Awards Ceremony & President's Address: "The Implications of Our Theme: Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity"

PLUS CASUAL GATHERINGS, FORMAL RECEPTIONS, AND AN EXHIBIT HALL

FEATURED PANELS AND ROUNDTABLES

Thursday, November 18 (In-person)

- Panel: Diversity of Protest Cultures: Belarus, Russia, Ukraine

Saturday, November 20 (In-person)

- Roundtable: Teaching Diversity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality in the Russian Language Classroom

Sunday, November 21 (In-person)

- Roundtable: Diversity of Silences / Horizons of the Possible in Slavic Studies

Thursday, December 2 (Virtual)

- Roundtable: Diversity of Responses to the Coronavirus Crisis: Old Patterns, New Challenges, Future World
- Roundtable: Fulbright Program Promotes Diversity
- Roundtable: Teaching REES at a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)

Additionally, we will explore specific themes across both the virtual and in-person events. These topics include:

- Careers Beyond Academia
- Russian Economic History
- Sino-Russian Relations
- Socialism or Barbarism
- Translation as Intersection

VIRTUAL SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, December 1

- Slavic DH Workshop: Periodicals as Data: Hands-on Workshop

Thursday, December 2

- Film: *Soyuzmultfilm* (working title) excerpt, by Ethan Bien

Friday, December 3

- Film: *Little Star Rising*, by Sladjana Lucic

PLUS NETWORKING EVENTS AND A VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

ASEES COVID-19 PROTOCOL

All in-person attendees at the New Orleans Convention are required to be fully vaccinated two weeks prior to the start of the convention on November 18 and show verification of vaccination.

Attendees will be expected to provide proof of vaccination status (in hard copy or on their phones) at restaurants.

CDC-approved masks must be worn properly during the Convention at all times. Attendees must bring their own CDC-approved masks.

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Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute



ASEEES 54th Annual Convention

Theme: Precarity

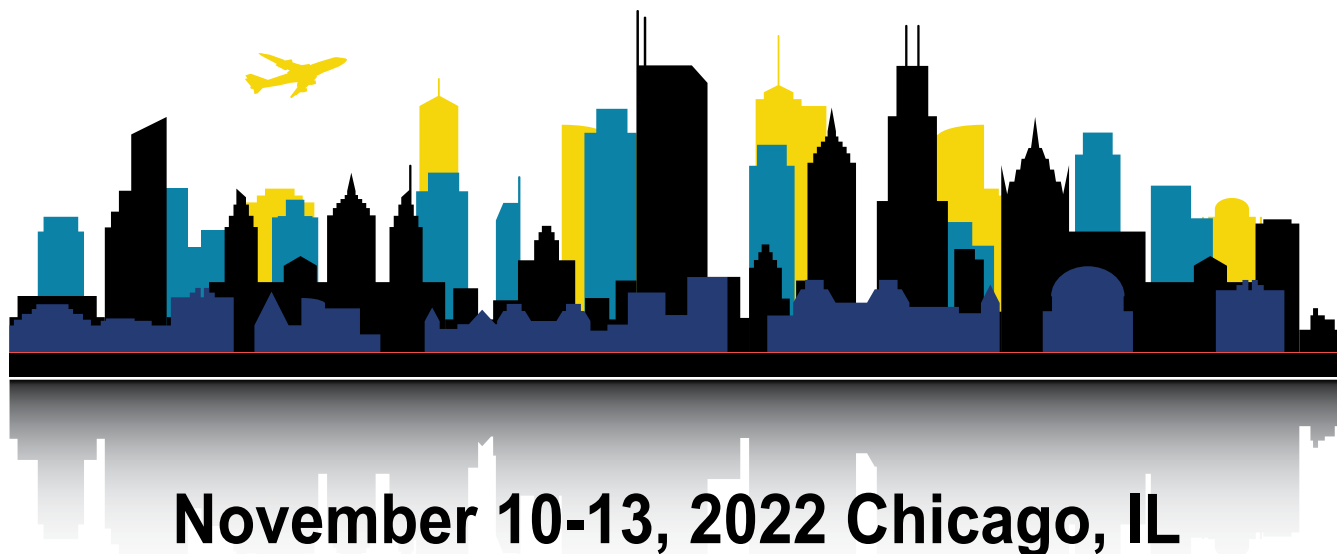
2022 ASEEES President: Joan Neuberger, University of Texas at Austin

The 2022 ASEEES convention invites discussion of the experiences associated with precarity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia as well as in the academic institutions that employ us to study the region. Primarily associated with unstable, exclusive, and increasingly uncertain working conditions together with the collective cultural and individual psychological experiences that result, precarity, has become a factor on nearly every aspect of life on our planet. While the effects of precarity are highly diverse, they have a profound impact, beyond the realms of work, on our environment, health care, mobility, social hierarchies of inclusion and exclusion, and the politics and economy of cultural production, among others. Changes in the global economy have made precarity especially visible in the present, but these are phenomena with long histories and long-evolving cultures. The peoples of Eastern Europe and Eurasia have created and responded to those threats in important, diverse, and instructive ways, in both the past and the present.

Within our own academic institutions, precarity is both unacknowledged and impossible to avoid. Academic precarity is a persistent subject of critique on social media and in student and faculty organizations. Yet the majority of university administrations embrace precarious employment practices as rational, while largely ignoring their human costs, a situation that affects all of us who work in academia, whatever the specific policies of our institutions.

The Covid pandemic with its recurring new variants reminds us time and again that "success" is ephemeral and we are dependent on one another in our vulnerability. Yet, as [Arundhati Roy](#) wrote at the beginning of the pandemic, this catastrophic interdependence might be worth reconsidering in a more positive light: "Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew...and fight for it." Can precarity be an opportunity?

**Proposals from all disciplines and historical periods are welcome, and encouraged.
Deadline for ALL Submissions (panels, papers, roundtables, lightning rounds) is
March 1, 2022.**



**Forthcoming in *Slavic Review*
Vol. 80 No. 3 • Fall 2021**

**CRITICAL DISCUSSION FORUM: AUTHORITY AND
POWER IN RUSSIA**

- “Authority and Power in Russia,” by Oleg Kharkhordin
- “Response to ‘Authority and Power in Russia,’” by Anthony Kaldellis
- “A Muscovite Republic?,” by Nancy Shields Kollman
- “The Third Rome and Russian Republicanism,” by Miguel Vatter

ARTICLES

- “‘First Love Is Exactly Like Revolution’: Intimacy as Political Allegory in Ivan Turgenev’s Novella *Spring Torrents*,” by Alexey Vdovin and Pavel Uspenskij
- “Czechoslovak Tariffs in the 1920s: An Example of Historical Specificity in Economic Policy Introduction,” by Oldřich Krpec and Vít Hloušek
- “Škoda Arms Exports in the 1930s,” by Aleš Skřivan Jr. and Tereza Burianová
- “Small Socialism: The Scales of Self-Management Culture in Postwar Yugoslavia,” by James Robertson
- “Democratic Backsliding in Poland and Hungary,” by Michael Bernhard
- “Political Game-Changers: The Importance of Leaders for Newly Emerged Parties in Romania,” by Sergiu Gherghina and Marius Grad

**DARTMOUTH COLLEGE HIRING ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR IN RUSSIAN STUDIES**

The Department of Russian at Dartmouth College invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professorship in Russian Studies, to begin July 1, 2022. We are especially interested in applicants with expertise in post-Soviet and contemporary literature, language, and culture; with a focus on the non-Russian cultures of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; or on ethnicity/nationality/race in the former Soviet bloc. Qualified candidates must have a Ph. D. in Slavic languages and literatures or a related field at the start of appointment; native or near-native fluency in Russian and English; and the ability to teach language at all levels. In addition to specialized courses that reflect their research interests, the person in this position will also be expected to teach core courses in Russian literature and culture and to lead the joint (with the Government Department and the Irving Energy Institute) Foreign Study Program to Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Irkutsk. Faculty are also expected to be actively involved in contributing to the vital intellectual and extracurricular life of the department. Qualified candidates should demonstrate initiative and organizational experience as well as willingness to serve the larger College community. For a full description of the position and to apply, see: <https://apply.interfolio.com/92353>

Applications should include: a cover letter addressed to the Russian Search Committee which describes research interests and teaching experience; one representative sample of published or unpublished work of no more than thirty pages; and three or four letters of recommendation. Review of applications will begin on November 1, 2021 and will continue until the position is filled. Preliminary interviews will be conducted by teleconference (Zoom or Skype) the week of November 29. Please address any questions about the position to Professor Lynn Patyk, Chair of the Russian Search Committee (Lynn.E.Patyk@dartmouth.edu).

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Publications

Matthias Schwartz, Nina Weller, and Heike Winkel edited *After Memory. World War II in Contemporary Eastern European Literatures*, (de Gruyter, June 2021) The present volume posits that literature as a medium can help us understand the shifting attitudes towards World War II and the Holocaust in post-Communist Europe in recent years. New narratives of remembrance are conditioned by a fundamentally new social and political context, one that emerged from the devaluation of socialist commemorative rituals and as a response to the loss of private and family memory narratives. The volume offers insights into the diverse literatures of Eastern Europe and their ways of depicting the area's contested heritage.

Natalia Aleksiu's *Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians before the Holocaust* (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2021) highlights the historical scholarship that is one of the lasting legacies of interwar Polish Jewry and analyzes its political and social context. As Jewish citizens struggled to assert their place in a newly independent Poland, Jewish devoted themselves to creating a sense of Polish Jewish belonging while also fighting for their rights as an ethnic minority. The political climate made it hard for these people to pursue an academic career; instead they had to create and disseminate Polish Jewish history by teaching outside the university and publishing in scholarly and popular journals. By introducing the Jewish public to historical heroes to celebrate and anniversaries to commemorate, they sought to forge a community aware of its past, its cultural heritage, and its achievements. In highlighting the role of public intellectuals and the social role of scholars and historical scholarship, this study adds a new dimension to the understanding of the Polish Jewish world in the interwar period.

Amy D. Ronner's sixth book, *Dostoevsky as Suicidologist: Self-Destruction and the Creative Process* (Lexington Books, January 2021), shows how self-homicide in Fyodor Dostoevsky's fiction prefigures Emile Durkheim's etiology in Suicide as well as theories of other suicidologists. This monograph not only fills a lacuna in Dostoevsky's scholarship, but also provides fresh readings of Dostoevsky's post-exile writings. Beyond that, the book funnels out, chapter-by-chapter, to an exegesis of how Dostoevsky's implicit awareness of fatalistic, altruistic, egoistic, and anomic modes of self-destruction helped shape not only his philosophy but also his craft as a writer. Most expansively, the book tackles the formidable task of forging a ligature between artistic creation and the pluripresent social fact of self-annihilation.

Dungan Folktales and Legends, by Kenneth J. Yin, was published by Peter Lang in August 2021. This book is a unique anthology that acquaints English-speaking readers with the rich and

captivating folk stories of the Dungans, Sinophone Muslims who fled Northwest China for Russian Central Asia after failure of the Dungan Revolt (1862–1877) under the Qing dynasty. The most comprehensive collection of Dungan folk narratives, available now in English for the first time, this volume features translations of oral narratives collected in the former Soviet Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in the twentieth century. The Dungan folk narrative tradition is a vibrant and fascinating tapestry of Chinese, Islamic, and various Central Asian cultural elements.

Esperanto and Languages of Internationalism in Revolutionary Russia, by Brigid O'Keeffe, was published by Bloomsbury in June 2021. In 1887, L.L. Zamenhof launched Esperanto, an international auxiliary language, from the western borderlands of a tsarist empire in crisis. This book studies the ordinary people in Russia (and all over the world) who soon transformed Esperanto into a global movement. O'Keeffe traces the history and legacy of Esperanto from its birthplace in the Pale of Settlement; to its appeal among the globally minded in late imperial Russia; to its links to interwar socialist internationalism and Comintern bids for world revolution; and, finally, to the demise of the Soviet Esperanto movement in the increasingly xenophobic Stalinist 1930s. This book reveals how Esperanto and global language politics broadly shaped revolutionary Russia. It also helps us to better understand the ambiguous premium placed on foreign languages and the often precarious position of their speakers in the larger history of Soviet internationalism.

From Victory to Peace: Russian Diplomacy after Napoleon, by Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter, was published by Northern Illinois University Press in December 2020. This history of Russian diplomatic thought in the years after the Congress of Vienna concerns a time when Russia and Emperor Alexander I were fully integrated into European society and politics. Wirtschafter looks at how Russia's statesmen who served Alexander I across Europe, in South America, and in Constantinople represented the Russian monarch's foreign policy and sought to act in concert with the allies. This book illustrates how Russia's policymakers and diplomats responded to events on the ground as the process of implementing peace unfolded.

I Was Never Alone or Oporniki, by Cassandra Hartblay, (University of Toronto Press, October 2020) presents an original ethnographic stage play, based on fieldwork conducted in Russia with adults with disabilities. The core of the work is the script of the play itself, which is accompanied by a description of the script development process, from the research in the field to rehearsals for public performances. In a supporting essay, the author argues that both ethnography and theatre can be

understood as designs for being together in unusual ways, and that both practices can be deepened by recognizing the vibrant social impact of interdependency animated by vulnerability, as identified by disability theorists and activists.

In December 2020, Northwestern University Press published Sofya Khagi's *Pelevin and Unfreedom: Poetics, Politics, Metaphysics*, which is the first book-length English-language study of Victor Pelevin. Khagi shows that Pelevin uses provocative and imaginative prose to model different systems of unfreedom, vividly illustrating how the present world deploys hyper-commodification and technological manipulation to promote human degradation and social deadlock. In his work, Pelevin highlights the unprecedented subversion of human society by the techno-consumer machine. Yet, Khagi argues, however circumscribed and ironically qualified, he holds onto the emancipatory potential of ethics and even an emancipatory humanism.

Stephen Crowley has published *Putin's Labor Dilemma: Russian Politics Between Stability and Stagnation* (Cornell University Press). The book questions the popular assumption that Russia's workers are Putin's "core supporters," and explores the challenges the Russian leadership faces between undertaking painful reforms to boost economic growth, and preventing economic grievances from leading to demands for political change.

Replacing the Dead: The Politics of Reproduction in the Postwar Soviet Union, by Mie Nakachi, was published by Oxford University Press in February 2021. In 1955 the Soviet Union re-legalized abortion. In the absence of a feminist movement, how did the idea of women's right to abortion emerge in an authoritarian society, more than a decade before it appeared in the West? The answer is found in the history of the Soviet politics of reproduction after World War II. In order to replace the 27 million Soviet soldiers and civilians who perished, the Soviet Union introduced an extreme pronatalist policy. This book argues that in the absence of serious commitment to supporting Soviet women who worked full-time, the policy actually did extensive collateral damage to gender relations and the welfare of women and children. *Replacing the Dead* finds the origin of the movement to improve women's reproductive environment in postwar social critique arising from women and Soviet professionals. This history is a cautionary tale for today's Russia, as well as other countries that attempt to promote a higher birth rate.

The Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia, edited by Katalin Fábíán, Janet Elise Johnson, and Mara Lazda, was published by Routledge in August 2021. Leading scholars examine the region's highly diverse politics, histories, cultures, ethnicities, and religions, and how these structures intersect with gender alongside class, sexuality, coloniality, and racism. With a focus on defining debates, the

collection considers how the shared experiences, especially communism, affect political forces' organization of gender through a broad variety of topics including feminisms, ideology, violence, independence, regime transition, and public policy.

Russia's Entangled Embrace: The Tsarist Empire and the Armenians, 1801-1914, (Cornell University Press, 2020) by Stephen Badalyan Riegg, traces the relationship between the Romanov state and the Armenian diaspora that populated Russia's territorial fringes and navigated the tsarist empire's metropolitan centers. This book reveals that the Russian government relied on Armenians to build its empire in the Caucasus and beyond. Analyzing the complexities of this imperial relationship -- beyond the reductive question of whether Russia was a friend or foe to Armenians -- allows us to study the methods of tsarist imperialism in the context of diasporic distribution, interimperial conflict and alliance, nationalism, and religious and economic identity.

Claudia Jensen, Ingrid Maier, Stepan Shamin, and Daniel Waugh announce the publication of their joint work, *Russia's Theatrical Past: Court Entertainment in the Seventeenth Century*, as part of Indiana University Press's Russian Music Series (June 2021). The international research, carried out by scholars from the U.S., Sweden, and Russia, was sponsored by a NEH Collaborative Research Grant, which allowed the authors to access archives in Russia and throughout Western Europe. The work focuses on music and theater at the Russian court as well as the musical and theatrical experiences of Russian diplomats abroad, particularly in Italy.

A Taste for Oppression: A Political Ethnography of Everyday Life in Belarus, by Ronan Hervouet, was published by Berghan Books in March 2021. Belarus has emerged from communism in a unique manner as an authoritarian regime. The author, who has lived in Belarus for several years, highlights several mechanisms of tyranny, beyond the regime's ability to control and repress. The book immerses the reader in the depths of the Belarusian countryside, among the kolkhozes and rural communities at the heart of this authoritarian regime under Alexander Lukashenko, and offers descriptions of the everyday life of Belarusians. It sheds light on the reasons why part of the population supports Lukashenko and takes a fresh look at the functioning of what has been called "the last dictatorship in Europe."

Tolstoy's Family Prototypes in "War and Peace," by Brett Cooke, was published by Academic Studies Press in November 2020.

What were the consequences of Tolstoy's unusual reliance on members of his family as source material for *War and Peace*? Did affection for close relatives influence depictions of these real prototypes in his fictional characters? Tolstoy used these models to consider his origins, to ponder alternative family histories, and to critique himself. Comparison of the novel and its fascinating drafts with the writer's family history

reveals increasing preferential treatment of those with greater relatedness to him: kin altruism, i.e., nepotism. This pattern helps explain many of Tolstoy's choices amongst plot variants he considered, as well as some of the curious devices he utilizes to get readers to share his biases.

The Voice Over: Poems and Essays, by Maria Stepanova and edited by Irina Shevelenko, (Columbia University Press in May 2021), brings together two decades of Stepanova's work, showcasing her range, virtuosity, and creative evolution. Recognizable patterns of ballads, elegies, and war songs are transposed into a new key, infused with foreign strains, and juxtaposed with unlikely neighbors. As an essayist, Stepanova engages deeply with writers who bore witness to social change, as seen in searching pieces on W. G. Sebald, Marina Tsvetaeva, and Susan Sontag. Including contributions from Alexandra Berlina, Sasha Dugdale, Sibelan Forrester, Amelia Glaser, Zachary Murphy King, Dmitry Manin, Ainsley Morse, Eugene Ostashevsky, Andrew Reynolds, and Maria Vassileva, *The Voice Over* shows English-speaking readers why Stepanova is one of Russia's most acclaimed contemporary writers.

Wheels of Change: Feminist Transgressions in Polish Culture and Society, edited by Jolanta Wróbel-Best, was published by Warsaw University Press in May 2021. This collection of essays construct feminist discourse by depicting a new reality, language, and values to assess as well as understand the life, goals, and social achievements of women over a span of centuries in Polish culture and society. Feminist transgression is envisioned as a thematic category bridging diverse women's accounts. Contributors include: Lynn Lubamersky, Józef Figa, and Aleksandra Święcka.

The Women's International Democratic Federation, the Global South and the Cold War: Defending the Rights of Women of the "Whole World"?, by Yulia Gradskova, was published by Routledge in December 2020. This book examines the role of the Women's International Defense Federation (WIDF) in transnational women's activism in the context of the Cold War, and in connection to the rights of women from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Questioning whether the organization acted for women's causes or whether it was merely a Cold War political instrument, the book analyzes and problematizes the place that the WIDF had in the politics of the Soviet Union, examining the ideology and politics of the WIDF and state socialist propaganda regarding women's equality and rights. Using Soviet archival documents of the organizations, the book offers a new perspective on the complexities of the development of global women's rights movement divided by the Cold War confrontations.

TUFTS UNIVERSITY HIRING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN INTERNATIONAL LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES

The Department of International Literary and Cultural Studies (ILCS) at Tufts University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in International Literary and Cultural Studies, to begin September 1, 2022. The successful candidate will teach intercultural and/or multidisciplinary courses in one or more of the following fields: literature, film, and cultural theory.

Responsibilities. 1) Teaching both thematic and theoretical courses for ILCS (the Department of International Literary and Cultural Studies and for ILVS (the interdepartmental International Literary and Visual Studies Program). Courses should be taught primarily in English, draw on the applicant's area(s) of specialization in literary, cinematic, and cultural studies, and can be either tightly focused or broadly comparative. 2) Producing outstanding research in areas related to this department and program. 3) Mentorship of students, especially in theses and independent research projects. 4) Service to the department, to the language/area-based programs of which it is comprised, and to the University. 5) Outreach to other academic programs and departments, especially in the humanities and arts, relevant to the candidate's interests.

About us. ILCS is a department in the School of Arts & Sciences at Tufts University. We are highly diverse and dedicated to understanding the complexities of a changing world through literary, cinematic, and other expressions of human consciousness. We work collaboratively across our various language/culture areas and with many other departments and programs, including International Relations, Film and Media Studies, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. For more information about our department, see <https://ase.tufts.edu/ilcs>.

Requirements. We seek candidates doing research in one or more of the following language-culture areas: Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Japanese, and Russian. Native or near-native competence in one or more of these languages, with PhD completed by time of hire. Record of success as a college/university-level teacher, with publications in peer-reviewed venues preferred.

Application Instructions. Please send the following via Interfolio to <https://apply.interfolio.com/92840>: a letter of application and CV; three two-page statements on your research interests, teaching methods, and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) issues; and the names of three possible recommenders. The review of applications will begin on October 18, 2021 and continue until the position is filled. Questions about the search should be addressed to Professor Kamran Rastegar: kamran.rastegar@tufts.edu

Tufts University, founded in 1852, prioritizes quality teaching, highly competitive basic and applied research, and a commitment to active citizenship locally, regionally, and globally. Tufts University also prides itself on creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. Current and prospective employees of the university are expected to have and continuously develop skill in, and disposition for, positively engaging with a diverse population of faculty, staff, and students.

Tufts University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our faculty and staff and to fostering their success when hired. Members of underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. See the University's Non-Discrimination statement and policy here <https://oeo.tufts.edu/policies-procedures/non-discrimination/>. If you are an applicant with a disability who is unable to use our online tools to search and apply for jobs, please contact Jobny Laine in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 617-627-32989 or at jobny.laine@tufts.edu. Applicants can learn more about requesting reasonable accommodations at <http://oeo.tufts.edu>



The Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School seeks applications for a tenure-track appointment at the rank of assistant or associate professor interested in research and teaching in the field of modern Russian history, with a specialization in security issues. Relevant expertise might include Russian military history/strategy, the Cold War, Russian technology issues, arms control, or military issues in Russia's relations with NATO, Eastern/Central Europe, the Caucasus, or Central Asia. Candidates should demonstrate a strong potential for teaching excellence and scholarly research. The successful candidate must also be prepared to teach introductory Masters-level courses on modern Russian history, Russian/Eurasian military strategy, and possibly modern European history, as well as courses in the candidate's specific research specialty.

Minimum qualifications:

- An earned doctoral degree from an accredited institution
- Evidence of teaching aptitude
- Evidence of potential to advise student theses and dissertations
- Evidence of strong potential for scholarship leading to scholarly publications

Employment requirements:

- U.S. citizenship is required
- Background check and eligibility for a Secret-level clearance

Applications should include a CV, cover letter (including teaching and research interests), official graduate transcripts, and syllabi of relevant courses taught. Candidates should also submit up to three writing samples and three letters of recommendation. These confidential letters of recommendation should be submitted separately. ABDs are welcome to apply with the understanding that the award of a Ph.D. degree is a condition of employment. Applications will be accepted until **Friday, October 29, 2021**. Expected start date is in the summer or fall of 2022.

Address applications and supporting materials electronically to the National Security Affairs Department at nsadept@nps.edu.

Questions and any other inquiries may be directed to:

Prof. Ryan Gingeras
Chair, Russian History Search Committee
Department of National Security Affairs
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
rgingera@nps.edu

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Relocation package, including recruitment/relocation incentive may be authorized.

The Naval Postgraduate School is an equal opportunity employer. For additional information about NPS, please refer to the website at <http://www.nps.edu>

NOTE: IF YOU ARE A VETERAN, you are strongly encouraged to identify your Veterans' Preference on your resume or elsewhere in your application package (type of preference, dates of service, date of VA letter, character of service, etc.). Additional Veterans' Information: if you are not sure of your preference eligibility, visit the Department of Labor's website: <http://dol.gov/elaws/vets/vetpref/mservice.htm>. For more veterans' preference information, visit: <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/index.aspx>



Institutional Member News

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN, RUSSIAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

The [60th Anniversary Celebration](#) will feature a semester-long program of exciting events that bring together members from the IERES community both past and present. They'll be joined by many prominent members of the international community as they look back at the achievements of the Institute. Join them as they celebrate their individual and collective accomplishments, including their recent ranking as the #1 University-Affiliated Regional Studies in the U.S. in the 2020 Go To Global Think Tank Index Report.

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER

George F. Kennan Fellowships

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

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

Applicants must submit a [completed application](#) for this round of competition by September 30, 2021.

[Title VIII Short-Term Scholarships](#)

The Kennan Institute's proposal for funding was selected by the U.S. Department of State Title VIII program. The Research and Summer Research deadlines will be in early 2022.

The next competition is for Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants, which allow U.S. citizens whose policy-relevant research in the social sciences or humanities focused on the countries of Eurasia, to spend up to one month using the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the DC area, while in residence at the Kennan Institute. The deadline for these grants is September 30, 2021. Please see the website for more details on the [Title VIII Short Term Grants](#).

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following scholars:

Title VIII Research Scholars

- Michael Coates, PhD Candidate, Dept. of History, UC Berkeley. "The Sources of Soviet Knowledge: A History of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia." October 2021 – July 2022.
- Lee Singh, PhD, Dept. of History, UC Riverside. "Ballet for Socialism's Sake (and Beyond)." October 2021 – July 2022.

George F. Kennan Fellows

- Alexandra Arkhipova, Senior Research Fellow, Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. "Russian Political Protest in Rumor and Reality." Tentatively October – December 2021.
- Alla Leukavets, Policy Analyst, Center for Strategic and Foreign Policy Studies. "The 2020 Presidential Elections and Post-election Protests in Belarus: Internal Dynamics and Implications for Relations with Russia and the West." September 2021 – November 2021.

James Billington Fellow

- Katherine Zubovich, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, University at Buffalo, SUNY. "Picturing the Plan: Soviet Artists, Global Icons, and the Mobilization of Visual Statistics." September 2021 – May 2022.

Galina Starovoitova Fellows

- Kamil Galeev, Freelance Journalist, "Nationalising Russia: the Language and Cultural Policies towards the Ethnic Minorities during the Putin Era." September–December 2021.
- Alena Popova, Head, Analytical Center, Ethnics and Technology. "Protecting Privacy and Autonomy of Voters in the Digital Era." September 2021 – March 2022.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

MIIS relaunched materials from its recent project on archival research, *The Bridge*. The Institute hopes that these resources will be useful to those planning courses and to students as they conduct research on Russia. [The Bridge: Connecting Past and Present Through Archival Research on Russia](#) is a video lecture series produced jointly by the National Security Archive at George Washington University and the Monterey Initiative in Russian Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

Many of the most important Russian archives are open and worth investigating. The goal of this project is to illuminate archival sources and disseminate information about collections that are available (in-person and online) for use by students and young experts in the field. Research based on original source material is of paramount importance to moving the field of

Russian Studies forward. Some highlights of this project include how to access critical archives such as RGANI, GARE, and the Foreign Ministry archives; tips on how to access archival material in regional archives that may be off-limits in Moscow; and how to access a variety of primary source documents online from the comfort of your own home or office.

MIIS has also re-released [The Ambassadorial Series](#) - a docuseries featuring interviews with all but one of the living former U.S. ambassadors to Russia and the Soviet Union. In eight hour-long videos, the ambassadors recall their personal experiences. They share photos, insights from high-stakes negotiations, and reflections on the challenges and dangers they sometimes faced. The ambassadors discuss a range of geopolitical issues, including the Soviet Union's breakup and the tense months that preceded it, the 1991 attempted coup, President Yeltsin's 1993 standoff, the early years of President Vladimir Putin, Russia's response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the 2008 Russo-Georgian war. The ambassadors also discuss nuclear, cyber, and economic cooperation, the impact of sanctions, and how social media and other technology changed their ability to communicate with the Russian people, among much else. The Ambassadorial Series can be accessed in [video](#), [podcast](#), or [PDF format](#).

NYU JORDAN CENTER POST-DOC FELLOWS
The NYU Jordan Center welcomes the following Post-Doctoral Fellows:

- Sasha de Vogel's book project focuses on protest campaigns against the Moscow City government about policy-related grievances in the mid-2010s. During this period, more protest campaigns were promised a concession than experienced a detention, yet these concessions rarely resolved protesters' grievances.
- Nikolay Erofeev's monograph project, 'Architecture and housing in the Comecon' looks at architecture and urbanization patterns produced by global socialism. Combining in-depth scrutiny of the design of the built environment with an analysis of the everyday processes of subject-making that shaped the socialist project in Mongolia, the project aims to provide a new understanding of the urban and domestic spaces produced in the Global South.
- Emily Laskin's current book project, *No Man's Land: The Geopoetics of Modern Central Asia*, focuses on the literature of the so-called Great Game, the Russo-British rivalry for influence in Central Asia, putting Russian and British imperial writing on Central Asia in dialogue with contemporaneous Persian literature published across the region.
- Vladimir Ryzhkovskyi's current book project, *Soviet Occidentalism: Medieval Studies and the Restructuring of Imperial Knowledge in Twentieth-Century Russia*, explores the twentieth-century history of medieval studies in late imperial and Soviet Russia as a model for demonstrating the crucial importance of Soviet appropriation of Western culture and knowledge in the post-revolutionary



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Walsh School of Foreign Service

Post-Doctoral Fellow in Russian Politics & International Affairs

Georgetown University invites applications for a **Post-Doctoral Fellow in Russian Politics and International Affairs**. The position will be based at the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies (CERES) of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and supported by a Carnegie Corporation grant, "For Enhancing Academic and Public Policy Understanding of Russia." The successful applicant will conduct research and teach one course per semester in support of one of the top interdisciplinary MA programs in this field.

Preference will be given to scholars whose work focuses on Russian foreign policy, including U.S-Russian relations, ties with neighboring and surrounding states (including in the EU and China), and conduct in the international arena. Applicants must have completed the PhD by the start of the position and have received the degree within the past 5 years.

The position starts January 1, 2022 and will last for 12-18 months, with possibility of extension.

Applicants should submit a cover letter outlining scholarly and teaching qualifications, a c.v., three letters of recommendation, evidence of teaching preparation or teaching portfolio, and one writing sample such as a dissertation chapter or published work. SFS is committed to student and faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion. Applicants should also submit a one-page diversity statement that discusses how they would contribute to inclusive excellence in the areas of research, teaching, and service in the SFS and reflects on their teaching and mentorship of students from diverse backgrounds. Applications should be submitted at: <https://apply.interfolio.com/95739>. **The deadline for applications is November 1.** Review of applications will begin immediately after the deadline and continue until the position is filled.

Georgetown University is an [Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action](#) Employer fully dedicated to achieving a diverse faculty and staff. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation), disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

reconstituting and maintaining the empire following 1917.

- Delgerjargal Uvsh's book project, "Reversal of the Resource Curse? Negative Revenue Shocks and Development in Russia and Beyond," develops a theory of when and how declines in natural-resource revenue (negative revenue shocks) incentivize political elites to support private business activity and reverse the "resource curse."

The NYU Jordan Center also announced the winners of its second annual [Graduate Student Essay Competition](#).

- Kari Andreev, University of Texas at Austin (runner-up): ["Black Snow \[Khara Khaar\]: Sakhawood's Latest Thriller is a Punishing, Yet Gripping Watch"](#)
- Alex Braslavsky, Harvard University (runner-up): ["Conversation in the Kitchen: Sasha Dugdale's Voiced Translation of Maria Stepanova"](#)
- Louisa R. Brandt, UC Davis (runner-up): ["Going to America: Foreign Amity, Domestic Unrest, and the United States in 1860s Russian Literature"](#)
- John C. Stanko, Indiana University (runner-up): ["Bigger Nets Mean More Goals: Russian Cultural Diplomacy and the KHL"](#)
- Ruqaiyah Zarook, New York University (third prize): ["A Brief History of an Indo-Soviet Cultural Affair"](#)
- Sarah Wood, University of Kentucky (second prize): ["Amber Wars: Corruption and International Implications"](#)
- Emily Curtin, CUNY Graduate Center (first prize): ["The Strength and Flexibility of Maria Kolesnikova"](#)

PUSHKIN HOUSE EXHIBIT "CREVICES IN MYTH"

Pushkin House opened its doors with a new exhibition "Crevices in Myth," which explores the work of three Russian artists reflecting on post-Soviet identities and the chasms caused by the differences between utopian thinking and reality.

Taking the theoretical framework of Alexandra Anikina's film *Data Field* as a starting point, the exhibition explores speculative visions of personal and collective histories, affected by intimately constructed rituals, somehow marking the 30th anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The projects of Elena Kolesnikova and Ekaterina Muromtseva further position individual experiences of living within inert social spaces at the centre of contemporary cultural reflection.

Anikina's film describes the evolution of the Russian modernity of the last century mapped onto her family history, revealing the role of technology in the constructions of the future. A local history museum constantly reanimates the past; alarmist news reports function as archaic folklore tales; Google maps provide a question mark to the understanding of a family archive, conveying the feeling of urgency that we experience in relation to history.

Using a ceramic sculpture and a series of watercolor drawings Lena Kolesnikova explores the experiences of living in a typical one-bedroom flat. Initially created for a creative residency located in a showroom of a real-estate developer, Odnushka [Single-bedroom flat] narrates very different stories unfolding in an idealized all-encompassing space.

Ekaterina Muromtseva's work "A Tough Male Portrait" depicts a tennis player and amateur artist who embarks on a journey, both physically and spiritually, in search of ideal masculinity embodied in the master of the land, the irreplaceable Russian president Vladimir Putin.

2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

New membership rates (at right) will take effect on January 1, 2022. This is the first dues rate increase in 10 years, or longer for some categories. Approved by the ASEEES Board to take effect in 2021, the increase was postponed until 2022. We at ASEEES are continually working to enhance and expand your [membership benefits](#) as well as advocate for our field.

	Previous Rate	New Rate
Lifetime Membership	\$2,400	\$2400
Income: \$150,000 and over	N/A	\$230
Income: \$125,000 to \$149,999	\$200	\$210
Income: \$100,000 to \$124,999	\$180	\$190
Income: \$75,000 to \$99,999	\$155	\$165
Income: \$60,000 to \$74,999	\$135	\$145
Income: \$50,000 to \$59,999	\$115	\$120
Income: \$40,000 to \$49,999	\$85	\$90
Income: \$30,000 to \$39,999	\$70	\$75
Income: Under \$30,000	\$55	\$60
Student	\$35	\$40
Affiliate	\$45	\$55
Joint membership	\$40	\$45



Personages

The 92nd Street Y's classes will feature **William Brumfield**: "20th-Century Russia: The Land and History of the Empire and Soviet Union Through Photography"

Karla Huebner has been promoted to full professor of Art History at Wright State University.

NEH awarded \$28.4 million in grants for 239 Humanities Projects nationwide. These grants support the preservation of historic collections, humanities documentaries and exhibitions, scholarly books and research, and educational opportunities for teachers. Among this year's recipients is **Tricia Starks**.

Starks and Caree Banton's project, "The Local and International Legacies of Nelson Hackett's Flight from Slavery, 1841-1861," is a two-week, residential institute for 30 K-12 teachers on the history of fugitives from slavery and the late-antebellum sectional crisis in response to the extradition from Canada of Nelson Hackett, an Arkansas man who fled slavery in 1841.

Starks and Casey Kayser also received funding for "Pandemics in History, Literature, and Today," which is a two-week, residential institute for middle and high school educators that would provide comparative perspectives on the 1918 and 2020 global pandemic.

Jelena Subotic was awarded the Georgia State University Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement, which recognizes outstanding faculty, staff, and students for their commitment to international education. Awards are given at the annual International Honorary Reception during International Education Week in November.

Olga Velikanova, University of North Texas, was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (Germany) to conduct her research in cooperation with German colleagues at Bielefeld University this fall. The project is "Soviet Surveillance in Comparative Perspective."

José Vergara started a new position as Assistant Professor of Russian at Bryn Mawr College.

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CFN: POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AWARDS

- The Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award honors those who have made outstanding contributions to Polish studies and culture.
 - Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials to Professor Robert Blobaum, President of PIASA, at Robert.Blobaum@mail.wvu.edu.
- The Anna M. Cienciala Award for Best Edited Multi-Author Scholarly Volume has been established to recognize the importance of collaborative scholarship and to honor Anna Cienciala, co-editor, with Natalia S. Lebedeva and Wojciech Materski, of a major collaborative work, *Katyn: A Crime without Punishment* (Yale University Press, 2008).
 - Eligibility: Eligible books must be edited multi-author collections of scholarly articles in the various fields of Polish studies broadly understood. Books must have been published in English in 2019 or 2020. Editors and contributors need not be members of PIASA.
 - Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials (see below) to Professor Neal Pease at pease@uwm.edu.
- The Bronislaw Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences 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 past instances, 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.
 - Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials (listed below) to Dr. Bozena Leven at bleven@tcnj.edu.
- The Wacław Lednicki Award in the Humanities, which recognizes the most outstanding book or creative work published, produced or presented in any of the fields encompassed within the Humanities as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities, to include fine arts, history, languages, literature, philosophy, religion, etc. 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 the English language.
 - Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials to Dr. Marek Haltof at mhaltof@nmu.edu.
- The Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish-Jewish Studies is given every two years to the author of the best English-

language book on the history and/or culture of Polish Jews.

- Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials (see below) to Dr. Piotr Wrobel at piotr.wrobel@utoronto.ca
- The Oskar Halecki Polish and East-Central European History 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 past instances, 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.
 - Nominations are made by submitting the requested materials (see below) to Professor James Pula at pula@pnw.edu
- Criteria for all book prizes: The book or body of work must be written in the English language and have been published during the 2019 or 2020 calendar years. If the nomination

NEWNET IS GOING DIGITAL!

We are excited to announce that, starting in January 2022, NewsNet will publish six bimonthly issues per year instead of five. In the interest of conserving resources and the environment, our newsletter will be exclusively digital moving forward. Please look forward to more timely content on a dynamic digital format.

We'll be using ISSUU to transform the NewsNet into an interactive, flippable, full color publication that will be pushed out in its entirety and in social stories more easily read on phones/other smaller devices.



is based on a body of work, it must include a significant publication within the last five calendar years. Both books containing original research or new, original syntheses are eligible for consideration; expect for the Cienciala Award, edited collections are ineligible.

- Nominations, including self-nominations, should include: A letter of justification why the particular candidate is deserving of the award; a curriculum vitae of the nominee that includes a bibliography of significant publications and a list of accomplishments. In the case of book prizes, send three copies of the nominated book to the email address specific to the prize to which you are applying. Please also send any additionally relevant materials such as book reviews and letters of support.
- Nominations for all prizes are due November 15, 2021. All recipients will be recognized during the 8th World Congress of PIASA in Białystok, Poland, June 10-12, 2022.

CfP: SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES

After a two-year hiatus, the Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will be held at the Omni Richmond (\$135/night) in downtown Richmond, Virginia, February 24-26, 2022. The meeting will be hosted by the University of Richmond. In addition to Friday and Saturday panels, conference highlights will include a Thursday evening reception; a plenary session on diversity and inclusion; a banquet with keynote speaker Donald J. Raleigh (Jay Richard Judson Distinguished Professor of History at UNC-Chapel Hill and recent winner of the ASEES Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award); and an optional excursion to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, home to one of the world's largest Fabergé collections.

Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome, as is a focus on countries other than Russia/USSR. Papers can be on any time period and any topic relevant to these regions. The program committee is accepting panel and paper proposals until December 1, 2021. Panel proposals (chair, three papers, discussant) or roundtables (chair, three to five participants) are preferred, but proposals for individual papers will also be accepted. Whole panel proposals should include the titles of each individual paper as well as a title for the panel itself and identifying information (email address and institutional affiliation) for all participants. Roundtable proposals should include a title and identifying information for all participants. 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. AV will be of limited availability and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please send all proposals for panels and/or papers to: Lee A. Farrow lfarrow@aum.edu with "SCSS Proposal" in the subject heading.



HAMILTON LUGAR

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HIRING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN RUSSIAN HISTORY

The Department of History (<https://history.indiana.edu/>) and the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute (<https://reei.indiana.edu/>) at Indiana University, Bloomington, invite applications for a tenure-track position at the level of Assistant Professor to begin in the fall of 2022. We seek an individual who specializes in any period from feudal to the Russian Revolution. The successful candidate will demonstrate a vibrant program of research that complements existing faculty expertise. Desired areas of expertise include, but are not limited to, tsarism, serfdom, labor, agriculture, war and empire, borderlands and nationalisms, religion and state, culture and cultural production, social and historical memory, ethnicity, environment and regional studies, urban evolution, medicine, law, rights, social movements, visual and digital humanities. The successful candidate will teach four courses per year, across the Department of History and the Institute, at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Expectations are for a full survey of Russian history, and broad thematic courses on Russia that will appeal to a diverse undergraduate student body.

Ph.D. is required at time of appointment. A full dossier will include a cover letter; CV; statements on teaching and diversity, equity, and inclusion in and out of the classroom; and three letters of reference. Applications received by November 15th will be assured full consideration. Interested candidates should review the job description and submit application materials online at <https://indiana.peopleadmin.com/postings/11550>. Queries can be sent to search co-chairs Prof. Judith Allen (juallen@indiana.edu) and Prof. Marianne Kamp (mkamp@indiana.edu).

The College of Arts and Sciences is committed to building and supporting a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community of students and scholars.

Indiana University is an equal employment and affirmative action employer and a provider of ADA services. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, ethnicity, color, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, disability status or protected veteran status.



2022 Stephen F. Cohen-Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Fellowships

The KAT Charitable Foundation and the JKW Foundation have generously agreed to support and expand the Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Program in Russian Historical Studies for 2022-2024. We are grateful for the KAT Foundation and JKW Foundation's generous support.

Starting in 2022, the Program will offer:

- **Five Dissertation Research Fellowships**, including **one new fellowship** designated for research in **women's and gender studies**;
- **Two Dissertation Completion Fellowships**.

Fellowship Amount: \$25,000

Application Deadline: January 21, 2022

Please see the website for full eligibility requirements.

aseees.org/programs/ctdrf

Global Education Outreach Program supports Polish-Jewish studies worldwide



**lectures, conferences,
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**Call for applications
at POLIN Museum
polin.pl/en/geop**



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



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Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
 203C Bellefield Hall, 315 S. Bellefield Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424
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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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