

NewsNet

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

Borders, Boundaries, Place and Space

2012 Presidential Address by Judith Deutsch Kornblatt, U of Wisconsin

The following Presidential Address was given on November 17, 2012 at the 44th Annual ASEES Convention.

Since my training is in literature, despite my forays into Religious Studies, Sociology, Intellectual History, Visual Culture, Film, Jewish Studies, and I don't know what else, let me begin today with a literary text. This one happens to be the prologue to a masterful, if somewhat bewildering novel by Andrei Bely: *Petersburg*.¹

PROLOGUE

Your Excellencies, Your Worships, Your Honors, and Citizens!

.....

What is this Russian Empire of ours?

This Russian Empire of ours is a geographical entity [Any geographers out there to reflect on the significance, even veracity, of this statement? How about any historians? I had thought an empire is a construct. Perhaps the history of the Empire would have been different if it had had more secure geographical boundaries...],

which means: part of a certain planet [How about any Slavic astronomers reading this?!? Astrologers? The latter might be of more help in the case of Bely, who the critic and philosopher Nikolai Berdiaev calls a "cosmic writer," and whose novel he calls an "astral novel."² While we have paused for this annotation, note now how Bely takes us from high above, a universe-eye view of the planet, and proceeds further and further down and inward in the next few paragraphs, squeezing, increasing tension until... well... we will see...]. **And this Russian Empire includes: in the first place -- Great, Little, White, and Red Rus** [Note this isn't the Reds and Whites of the later revolution and civil war in Russia; the novel takes place in 1905. "White Russia" is obviously Belorus' and "Red" translates Chervonnaia Rus']; **in the second place -- the Kingdoms of Georgia, Poland, Kazan, and Astrakhan; in the third place, includes But -- et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.** [How many of you historians have sat in archives and read endless Imperial proclamations? Perhaps you recognize the conclusion to the many paragraph-long lists of the Tsar's titles and the lands he rules. We can't really read this passage without your knowledge, or we can't read it as fully as it deserves. Here we have not the tsar, but the Empire itself, or, as we will see, its

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The Fetishism of Commodities Revisited

Lewis Siegelbaum, Michigan State University

It is one of the great ironies of post-socialism that the fetishism of commodities, an illusion that, according to Marx, was characteristic of bourgeois societies, has emerged as one of the few survivals of the socialist era. I am referring to certain goods produced in the Soviet Bloc that have acquired iconic significance and thereby popularity, especially among people too young to have experienced life in the Bloc itself. The Trabant, Moca Fix coffee, and Spreewald gherkins achieved international fame thanks to the 2003 German film *Goodbye Lenin* (dir. Wolfgang Becker), but the other former Soviet Bloc countries have had their equivalents, each a madeleine to the aesthetics, social practices, political conventions, and linguistic tics associated with the respective country's experience of socialism.

These articles have become so ubiquitous thanks to their reproducibility. They and their simulacra have appeared in movies, on TV and the Internet, in museums, and, of course, on the streets of capital cities where they are for show and for sale. A small library of books devoted to the material artifacts of Soviet-style socialism has been published, many in English. But they have not been foisted on a witless or naïve public. Their appeal is genuine, expressive of nostalgia for the expired Second World, retro-creating it from an increasingly safe distance. Nostalgia is serious business, which means it has gained academic respectability. One of the aforementioned books even refers to "expert nostalgists."¹ Nostalgia for socialist times, as expert nostalgist Mitja Velikonja has argued, should be understood pluralistically: "The post-socialist period with its unprecedented dilemmas and solutions, fragilities and severities, is a seedbed for various nostalgias."²

In her essays now collected into a single posthumous volume, Daphne Berdahl charted the evolution of "Ostalgie" - the specifically German version of nostalgia for state socialism - from vernacular, to counter-memory, to parody.³ Velikonja by contrast considers nostalgia synchronically. He identifies "'materialized' nostalgia," i.e., "various old or new objects, products or souvenirs," as distinct from the dematerialized kind ("nostalgia as a feeling or idea").⁴ Both nostalgias can be personal or collective, self-referential or instrumental, and mimetic or satirical. They can venerate, ridicule, or, as *Kopeck*, the 2002 Russian film comedy (dir. Ivan Dykhovichnyi) about the original Lada succeeded in doing, do both at the same time. What they cannot do is

substitute for history. Writing in the 1980s, Jean Baudrillard equated "the retreat of history" with the "age of simulation."⁵ Fortunately, history's decline - to say nothing of the "death pangs of the real" - did not dissuade scholars from taking up the subject of the material cultures of the past. Since the turn of the millennium, Slavists have produced an impressive body of scholarship on Second World consumption regimes and material cultures. The thrust of this work has been to both defetishize and defamiliarize. It is to resituate back into their original contexts material objects that have become vestiges of *les temps perdu*, to re-construct the ideological work associated with them and the popular meanings attached to them - that is, their materialities - and thus to look afresh on the socialist period as a whole. It is thus to re-connect past and present on a basis fundamentally different from nostalgia.

As Catherine Cooke, a British expert in architecture and design, observed in 2000 with respect to the material culture of the Soviet bloc, "these materialized manifestations always seemed more revealing and enduring descriptors of their attributes and tensions than the ephemera of properly 'political' analysis. So history has proved." Cooke's observation, in retrospect a manifesto for the literature that followed, appeared as the opening sentence in *Style and Socialism*, a collection of ten essays on "modernity and material culture in Post-War Eastern Europe" edited by Susan E. Reid and David Crowley.⁶ Reid and Crowley have since edited two other volumes.⁷ The three together have had an enormous impact on the contours of writing about material culture and consumption in the Socialist East. Therefore, at least some of the questions one could ask about them, and the answers they offer apply equally to other works, including those that have appeared under my name.⁸

Let us start with questions of periodization, a real snooze for everyone other than historians and, truth be told, for most historians too, but nonetheless essential to organizing thoughts. When looked at through the prism of its material culture, should the history of Communist Eastern Europe be treated all of a piece, or are there discernible shifts? Here, we immediately encounter the temporal asymmetry between the USSR and the rest of the Bloc. By the time socialism arrived in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union had experienced a variety of distributional models, consumption practices, and aesthetic dogmas. Yet,

even within Eastern Europe, temporal distinctions make sense. Although most scholars use the 1959 Khrushchev-Nixon Kitchen Debate as a point of departure, Greg Castillo pushes Cold War competition in domestic design back to the immediate post-war years and shifts the site of the competition to divided Germany.⁹ Writing about plastics in the GDR, Raymond Stokes concluded that if in the 1950s they appeared “ideologically sound, malleable and solving a host of economic and political problems,” then by the mid 1960s they were “causing at least as many problems as they solved,” and (already!) playing their part “in pushing the GDR towards ultimate collapse.”¹⁰ Judd Stitzel would seem to agree, viewing the end of the 1960s as a watershed after which “the crass contrast between official promises and propagated images on the one hand and the bleak reality of everyday experiences on the other” led “East Germans both within and outside the regime” to question “its legitimacy with growing impatience.”¹¹ And although Paulina Bren reverses the vectors by arguing that the Czechoslovak Communists succeed in depoliticizing public life and politicizing private consumption only *after* the Prague Spring, 1968 still represents a landmark in consumption.¹²

Bren inadvertently raises another question, though. If this maneuver proved such a success, what brought down the regime? Could it be that not deprivation but sufficiency was the regime’s undoing, that the more socialist consumption (whatever that was) resembled western bourgeois consumption, the more invidious the comparisons? The anthropologist Krisztina Fehérvári hints at just such an ironic development in Hungary after 1956 under Janos Kádár. The regime’s “refrigerator socialism,” its cultivation of a middle-class culture that revolved around private automobile, modern urban apartment, and weekend cottage in the countryside, invited comparisons with the lifestyles of average citizens in the First World.¹³ Socialist acquisitiveness proved no match for the often-idealized images people had of the good life in Western Europe and North America. Or, have I left out a very late period of economic crisis in the late 1970s and early 1980s occasioned by growing indebtedness to Western banks that had financed purchases of technology and in a sense made possible the expansion of consumption? How important was the debt crisis and the ways political authorities in Poland, Romania, and elsewhere dealt with it to the loss of whatever legitimacy those regimes previously had enjoyed?

Considerations of periodization have bled into those involving Eastern Europe’s commercial and cultural relations with the West. This has been a fruitful area of inquiry. Alexei Yurchak devotes an entire chapter of his

book with the pitch-perfect title to the “Imaginary West: The Elsewhere of Late Socialism.” This was a “diverse array of discourses, statements, products, objects, visual images, musical expressions, and linguistic constructions ... that circulated widely” not only in the Soviet Union but the rest of the Bloc too (arguably earlier and more so than in the USSR, but see below).¹⁴ Yurchak is only one of several scholars to stress *stiliagi*, transistor radios, rock on bones (recordings of Western rock-‘n-roll songs on x-ray sheets), jeans, and other materializations dating from the 1950s and ‘60s of Soviet youth’s fascination with Western pop culture. He also mentions the foreign plastic bags carried by young people as well as their elders, but these date from later times. I, at least, do not recall seeing anyone carrying them or even wearing clothing with anything written in the Roman alphabet when I was an exchange student in 1973-74.

These icons of Western prosperity (or profligacy?) and carefreeness truly did possess fetishistic qualities. “Our “ jeans could never be as good as theirs, citizens of the Socialist bloc told themselves – even if they were. Eastern Europeans’ experiences of these comparisons with the West generally were more intense than those of Soviet citizens, partly because of greater geographic proximity, partly because of extensive diasporas, partly because of greater porousness of borders, and also because of more extensive commercial relations. *Imagining the West In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*, a collection of eleven contributions including those by Susan Reid, David Crowley, and Paulina Bren, is particularly good at charting this territory – mental as well as material.¹⁵ Both the introduction by György Péteri and the conclusion by Michael David-Fox underscore the importance of the West as the yardstick for the East. “The West,” writes David-Fox, “was not only an attractive rival but, in other ways, an inextricable part of the fabric of those societies.” And for Péteri, Nikita Khrushchev’s capitulation in the late 1950s to the siren song of Western trends in consumption and domesticity at the expense of “the integrity and distinctively systemic identity of the state-socialist social order” was the beginning of the end.¹⁶

But is this fair? Didn’t citizens of socialist countries deserve their “good life’ here and now” as opposed to consumer sacrifice for a socialist future? The question goes to the heart of what Narcis Tulbure, one of the contributors to the delightful volume of essays on *Pleasures in Socialism*, calls the “political economy of pleasure under socialism.”¹⁷ Khrushchev’s “austere consumption” (Reid and Crowley’s indelible term) may have been all right with some people, but others wanted to enjoy themselves a bit more. They wanted to celebrate in style. Stalin had understood this,

which was why, as Jukka Gronow pointed out, not only the comrades but also ordinary workers occasionally had access to “caviar with champagne.”¹⁸ But by the 1960s that wasn’t good enough. Nothing less than dresses designed in the Dior style would do because, as Larissa Zakharova explains, they had figured in Eldar Riazanov’s *Carnival Night* (1956) and “the indirect initiation of Soviet consumers into the traditional luxury of Western fashion by Soviet designers prepared Muscovites for the reception of the true haute couture.” The same was true of furs whose “cultural biographies” Anna Tikhomirova relates via interviews with former wearers.¹⁹

Fashion clearly was among the “modernities” that for better or for worse “entangled” (in Michael David-Fox’s use of the term borrowed from the French *histoire croisée*) the East with the West.²⁰ But why persist in assuming that material culture was so monolithic in the East? True, as Stephen Kotkin has noted, “The Soviet phenomenon created a deeply unified material culture...not just cheap track suits worn by seemingly every male in Uzbekistan or Bulgaria, Ukraine or Mongolia,” but also “children’s playgrounds ... apartment buildings (outside and inside), schools, indeed entire cities.”²¹ Yet, surely people outside the Bloc wore track suits, lived in apartment blocks, and went to school in buildings that bore resemblance to one another whether they were in Maine or Michigan, Manchester or the Midlands. More importantly, elements of material cultures originating in different countries and regions survived from the pre-communist era and, as Kurt Möser explains in relation to car repair, were actually cultivated by ruling communist parties.²² Just as “Eastern Europe” is a political construct ill suited to cultural and other analyses, so even in the “deeply unified” USSR, people distinguished between, say, Estonia - “the Soviet ‘Abroad’” as Anne Gorsuch has termed it- and Uzbekistan, precisely with respect to material culture.²³ Managing shortage – a nearly ubiquitous situation around the Bloc – varied from one country to another. Some were more transparent than others in privileging certain kinds of citizens. Some accommodated bribery more than others. And so on.

So, what was it? Did the cultivation of consumption contribute to the destruction of the socialist Second World or did it allow the system to exist for as long as it did? Was there one distinctly socialist material culture or many? For the time being at least, while the materialities of the Second World are still being excavated, I would want to have it both ways. Best not to fetishize these commodities.

(Endnotes)

- 1 Michael Idov, ed., *Made in Russia: Unsung Icons of Soviet Design* (New York: Rizzoli, 2011), 46.
- 2 Mitja Velikonja, *Titostalgia: A Study of Nostalgia for Josip Broz* (Ljubljana: Mirovni Institut, 2008), 33.
- 3 Daphne Berdahl, *On the Social Lie of Postsocialism: Memory, Consumption, Germany* Matti Bunzl, ed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010), 48-59.
- 4 Velikonja, *Titostalgia*, 29.
- 5 Jean Baudrillard, “History: a Retro Scenario,” in *Simulacra and Simulation* Sheila Faria Glaser trans. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994), 43-48.
- 6 Catherine Cooke, “Preface” in Susan E. Reid and David Crowley, eds. *Style and Socialism: Modernity and Material Culture in Post-War Eastern Europe* (Oxford: Berg, 2000), vii.
- 7 David Crowley and Susan E. Reid, eds. *Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc* (Oxford: Berg, 2002), and David Crowley and Susan E. Reid, eds., *Pleasures in Socialism: Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2010).
- 8 Lewis H. Siegelbaum, *Cars for Comrades: The Life of the Soviet Automobile* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008); Lewis H. Siegelbaum, ed., *The Socialist Car: Automobility in the Eastern Bloc* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011).
- 9 Greg Castillo, *Cold War on the Home Front: The Soft Power of Midcentury Design* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010).
- 10 Raymond G. Stokes, “Plastics and the New Society: The German Democratic Republic in the 1950s and 1960s,” in *Style and Socialism*, 78.
- 11 Judd Stitzel, *Fashioning Socialism: Clothing, Politics, and Consumer Culture in East Germany* (Oxford: Berg, 2005), 167-68.
- 12 Paulina Bren, *The Greengrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010).
- 13 Krisztina Fehérváry, “Goods and States: The Political Logic of State-Socialist Material Culture,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 51, no. 2 (2009): 426-459. Fehérváry elaborates on this point in her *Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and Middle-Class Citizenship in Hungary, 1950-2000* (Indiana University Press, forthcoming).
- 14 Alexei Yurchak, *Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More: The Last Soviet Generation* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), 158-206 (quotation at 161).
- 15 György Péteri, ed., *Imagining the West in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).
- 16 *Ibid.*, 8, 262. See also Paulina Bren and Mary Neuberger, eds., *Communism Unwrapped: Consumption in Cold War Eastern Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

17 Narcis Tulbure, "Drink, Leisure, and the Second Economy in Socialist Romania," in *Pleasures in Socialism*, 275.

18 Jukka Gronow, *Caviar with Champagne: Common Luxury and the Ideals of the Good Life in Stalin's Russia* (Oxford: Berg, 2003).

19 Larissa Zakharova, "Dior in Moscow: A Taste for Luxury in Soviet Fashion Under Khrushchev," in *Pleasures in Socialism*, 95, 108; Anna Tikhomirova, "Soviet Women and Fur Consumption in the Brezhnev Era," in *Pleasures in Socialism*, 294-300. See also Larissa Zakharova, *S'habillerà la soviétique: La mode et le Dégel en URSS* (Paris: CNRS Éditions, 2011).

20 Michael David-Fox, "Multiple Modernities vs. Neo-Traditionalism: On Recent Debates in Russian and Soviet History," *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, vol. 55, no. 4 (2006): 535-555.

21 Stephen Kotkin, "Mongol Commonwealth? Exchange and Governance across the Post-Mongol Space," *Kritika*, vol. 8, no. 3 (2007), 520.

22 Kurt Möser, "Autobasteln: Modifying, Maintaining, and Repairing Private Cars in the GDR, 1970-1990," in *The Socialist Car*, 157-169.

23 Anne E. Gorsuch, *All This is Your World: Soviet Tourism at Home and Abroad after Stalin* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 49.

2013 Convention "Revolution"

ASEEES 45th Annual Convention
November 21-24, 2013
Boston Marriott Copley Place

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NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Genevra Gerhart, with Eloise M. Boyle. *The Russian's World*, 4th ed., 476 p., 2012 (ISBN 978-0-89357-380-5), \$49.95.

A revised, expanded, and updated edition of a book that has become a classic in the field, *The Russian's World* represents an attempt at the impossible: to describe for non-Russians what Russian common knowledge might be. New features include material on computer terminology and Internet resources.

Brian J. Boeck, Russell E. Martin, and Daniel Rowland, eds. *Dubitando: Studies in History and Culture in Honor of Donald Ostrowski*, 504 p. + illus., 2012 (ISBN 978-0-89357-404-8), \$39.95.

Contributed by Ostrowski's many colleagues and students, these essays representing an array of disciplinary approaches and issues build upon and at times challenge the work of previous historians by raising doubts and questions—as Ostrowski has done in his own career and welcomes when he finds it in others.

Agnessa Mironova-Korol as told to Mira Yakovenko, trans. Rose Glickman. *Agnessa: From Paradise to Purgatory. A Voice from Stalin's Russia*, 241 p., 2012 (ISBN 978-0-89357-394-2), \$29.95.

Agnessa, the privileged wife of a regional boss of the NKVD and herself a victim of the purges, offers a unique glimpse into the luxurious and yet thuggish, paranoid world of the Stalinist elite. What makes Agnessa's account particularly compelling and distinguishes it from many other victim narratives is her partial complicity in the Stalinist order.

Carol Apollonio and Angela Brintlinger, eds. *Chekhov for the 21st Century*, 382 p., 2012 (ISBN 978-0-89357-392-8), \$34.95.

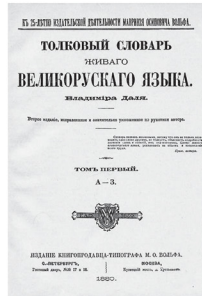
In this volume, Carol Apollonio and Angela Brintlinger have brought together leading scholars from Russia and the West for a wide-ranging conversation about Chekhov's work and legacy. Considering issues as broad as space and time and as tightly focused as the word, these are 21 exciting new essays for the 21st century.



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capital city personified, as supposedly all powerful, eternal, infinite. Only, of course, it is not...]

This Russian Empire of ours consists of a multitude of cities: capital, provincial, district, downgraded ["Downgraded" renders "zashtatnyi gorod" a bit of "bureaucratese" on the part of Bely, to go along with the mix of familiar discourse, official imperial language, and pseudo-social science terminology, and just plain childish and often illogical verbiage... -- Any specialists in stylistics here?]; **and further -- of the original capital city and of the mother of Russian cities.**

The original capital city is Moscow, and the mother of Russian cities is Kiev.

Petersburg, or Saint Petersburg, or Pieter (which are the same) actually does belong to the Russian Empire. And Tsargrad, Konstantinograd (or, as they say, Constantinople), belongs to it by right of inheritance. And we shall not expatiate on it [Thank you, Andrei... Although I would suppose that there might be some Byzantine specialists here who would like to parse this statement. I suspect this is the old "Moscow the Third Rome" adage].

Let us expatiate at greater length on Petersburg: there is a Petersburg, or Saint Petersburg, or Pieter (which are the same). [Hmm. Déjà vu all over again.] **On the basis of these same judgments** [which judgments are those?!?], **Nevsky Prospect is a Petersburg prospect.**

Nevsky Prospect possesses a striking attribute: it consists of a space for the circulation of the public. [Striking, indeed...] **It is delimited by numbered houses. The numeration proceeds house by house, which considerably facilitates the finding of the house one needs. Nevsky Prospect, like any prospect, is a public prospect, that is: a prospect for the circulation of the public (not of air, for instance).** [For those of you missing some of the references here, read Gogol. For him, Nevsky is a prospect for the circulation of noses and of shadows. Shades. Both caused by the interplay of light and dark and of this world and that. And such will be the case for Bely, if we were to continue reading past this prologue. Who is real, he asks? What is real? Any philosophers out there to help us out here?] **The houses that form its lateral limits are -- hmmm...yes.... for the public.** [Here we see our rather unreliable narrator back himself into a corner. What, I ask the native speakers of Russian culture, is a "*publichnyi dom*"? We both are

and are not supposed to picture houses of prostitution on the borders of Nevsky Prospect.] **Nevsky Prospect in the evening is illuminated by electricity. But during the day Nevsky Prospect requires no illumination.** [Okay, this is Bely's twentieth century, and not Gogol's nineteenth. For the earlier writer, it is the devil himself who lights the lamps on Nevsky Prospect in "Nevsky Prospect." In that story, we have another capricious narrator dragging us through another work of fiction named for a place, or a space that defies definition. By surreptitiously evoking Gogol, Bely gets to conjure up Gogol's devil, too, and remind us that Petersburg "is all deception, a dream, nothing is what it seems!"³³]

Nevsky Prospect is rectilinear (just between us [Love that familiarity... This narrator is beginning to creep me out...]), **because it is a European prospect; and any European prospect is not merely a prospect, but (as I have already said) a prospect that is European, because ... yes ...**

For this very reason, Nevsky Prospect is a rectilinear prospect. [I suspect we don't need any logicians in our organization to help the rest of us evaluate this grand statement...]

Nevsky Prospect is a prospect of no small importance in this un-Russian -- but nonetheless -- capital city. [Ahh, the old Russia vs. the West dichotomy raising its ugly head. Most of us can help out here. The evil infiltration from Europe, and all...] **Other Russian cities are a wooden heap of hovels.** [But which side of the divide does our narrator stand on? I figured him for a Slavophile. Is he a Westernizer?]

And strikingly different from them all is Petersburg.

But if you continue to insist on the utterly preposterous legend about the existence of a Moscow population of a million-and-a-half, then you will have to admit that the capital is Moscow, for only capitals have a population of a million-and-a-half; but as for provincial cities, they do not, never have had, and never will have a population of a million-and-a-half. And in conformance with this preposterous legend, it will be apparent that the capital is not Petersburg.

But if Petersburg is not the capital, then there is no Petersburg. It only appears to exist. [Now, we are getting to something interesting...]

However that may be, Petersburg not only appears to us, but actually does appear -- on maps: in the

form of two small circles, one set inside the other, with a black dot in the center; and from precisely this mathematical point, which has no dimension, it proclaims forcefully that it exists: from here, from this very point surges and swarms the printed book; from this invisible point speeds the official circular.

.....

I present this prologue as part of my presidential address, in the first instance, to allow me to declaim my favorite line, one that I have used at least once every single semester for the past quarter century: "Never trust a narrator." And, particularly, I would add here, don't trust *this* narrator.

Second, I present this passage as homage to my late advisor, Robert A. Maguire, who, along with John Malmstad was one of the two translators of this novel back in the 1970s. I also read it to close a circle [a good Petersburgian metaphor, although the circles are always coming undone in the novel, or threatening to burst apart]. My very first semester in graduate school, I took a seminar with the two distinguished professors and translators of this very novel. Along with a total of two other students. And one dropped out. So, this is my homage to Professor Maguire, and the fact that he didn't lose faith in me after the convoluted and expansive paper I submitted for that course. Alas, I ran across it again in preparing for this address.

Finally, I present this text because it is fun, which is, I think, why most of us do the things we do.

But, really truly finally [never trust me as a narrator, either... I am narrating my own address here...], I present this to you now as an inclusive text, since geographers, historians, demographers, not to mention philosophers, mathematicians, theologians and of course literary specialists can find a reference that means something to them. A door they can open. An entrance into a space that might cause them to expand. In a good way. A question they can ask. "What is an empire?" "What is a city?" "What is a person?" "What is language?" I present it because it is an interdisciplinary text, or, rather, a text that requires an interdisciplinary approach. Or, better yet, a trans-disciplinary text -- not between, but across. It is a geographically and historically and linguistically and aesthetically expansive text. Not to mention a political text. It is, after all, about revolution. It is about how Ableukhov the junior is enlisted to blow up Ableukhov the senior with a bomb placed in a sardine can. He is to start the Revolution. Actually, it isn't really about a real revolution, despite its setting in 1905. [Historians, your turn again.] It is just plain about blowing things up.

About eradicating borders. About making spaces. And denying places. About the fictitiousness of boundaries. The erasure of dichotomies. Of binaries. A circular sardine can blows up. No more inside. No more outside. The circular head of Apollon Apollonovich Ableukhov can blow up. The prospect that is or is not Nevsky prospect, on which one "circulates," can blow up. The circle that is or isn't Petersburg can blow up. But in the end, it can't blow up, because it is only a dot on a map. An abstraction. A notion. "Cerebral play," as Bely describes. It doesn't have any dimension. No depth. No content. What is Petersburg? Is it the sum of its numbered buildings? The sum of its quirky inhabitants? But the math doesn't add up to much. As one astute reader has written, "In Bely's system, a novel, like a city, is made up of millions of minute units. Sometimes, these units blossom into motifs: sometimes, motifs dissolve into random detail."⁴ So what *is* Petersburg? Being trained initially in literature, as I have said, I can see that Bely is pushing us to ask, rather, not what is Petersburg, but what is *Petersburg*? And what *is* it? A family drama? A tendentious tract? A satire? A philosophical novel? And a religious novel, if into the category of religion we are willing to include all kinds of Anthroposophism and other New/Old Age perspectives? Bely might say that it is merely cerebral play exploding out of our brains. So that monsters -- and failed revolutionaries, and double agents -- arise from its combinations of letters. And sounds. The sound of *Petersburg* he tells us is: Ooohhh. Petersboohhrg. Revolooohhtion. And the sounds of Petersburg do nothing more than [or all that much as] provoke *Petersburg*. As Bely writes in the prologue: **two small circles, one set inside the other, with a black dot in the center; and from precisely this mathematical point, which has no dimension, it proclaims forcefully that it exists: from here, from this very point surges and swarms the printed book...**

Now, finally, finally, finally, I also present this as a book that chosen a couple months ago by a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate student to read with a group of male prisoners at Oakhill Correctional Institution in Verona, WI. Now, what does it tell us? The very fact of a class on a "revolutionary" novel that represents the height of modernist rule-breaking conducted with law breakers breaks boundaries. Here is an occasion when those on the inside sit down with those on the outside and share a space. A confined space. With walls and razor wire. But a space that opens up into infinity, allowing people from all different backgrounds, skill sets, perspectives to "circulate" together. And provoke new things, new questions, new spaces.

Which brings me to ASEEES.

What is ASEEEES? Is it merely the publisher of *Slavic Review*, an “Interdisciplinary Quarterly of Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies?” Is that the only reason you join? I hate to be the one to tell you, but if you are affiliated with a university, I bet that its library has an electronic and/or paper subscription. Or is ASEEEES to you just the host of the annual convention? Is that the reason you join? Or, in addition, might there be something else? Something more? Something more expansive? Something that constitutes the real value added of such an organization.

I suggest, for one, that the value added of ASEEEES is in its very inter-, trans-, multi-disciplinary nature. We all belong to our ASAs, our AHAs, our APAs, our AAAs, our MLAs. But we also break out of the confines of these three-letter acronyms by belonging to ASEEEES, with its six letters and many, many more combinations and permutations thereof. I contend that our organization can give us much beyond our nonetheless priceless journal and convention. But we need to discover how it can best help our fields and the trans-nature of those fields, so that we can have true engagement with other disciplines, to ask questions, engage problems of broad conceptual significance with resonance across fields, as participants of the presidential plenary at the convention in New Orleans suggested.

So I ask: What should ASEEEES be doing? Two projects are in the making: an Advocacy Committee -- so that ASEEEES might play a role in maintaining funding for our various disciplines -- and a Committee on Development. The Board has already decided to develop. But how? In which direction? For what should we be raising money? Larger conventions? Free coffee in meeting rooms? Or something else? Graduate student professional development? Travel grants? Webinars throughout the year? Better ways to interact with scholars from our regions? Better support for young scholars -- or old scholars -- to go to our regions? Smaller conferences in those regions? All of these ideas come back to networking, that is, to a series of intersecting and crossing lines of communication and creation, so unlike the abstract dot, devoid of content, that Bely derives.

ASEEEES is so much more than cerebral play, no matter how much fun that may be. And it can be even more than that. But we need to know what you think. What, for you, is the value added of ASEEEES? How can we expand that value? If you would like to weigh in, email me. Or Lynda Park. Or anyone on the Board.

(Endnotes)

1 Andrei Bely, *Petersburg*, translated, annotated, and introduced by Robert A. Maguire and John E. Malmstad (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1978), 1-2. Many of the annotations below come from the extremely helpful notes to this edition.

2 N. A. Berdyaev (BERDIAEV), “An Astral Novel: Reflections regarding A. Bely’s Novel *Peterburg* (1916 - #233 (14,3) http://www.berdyaev.com/berdiaev/berd_lib/1916_233.html, Accessed 10/29/2012. Trans. Fr. S. Janos. ASTRAL’NYI ROMAN (Razmyshlenie po povodu romana A. Belogo «Peterburg»). First published in Journal «Birzhevye vedomosti», 1 July 1916, No. 15608.

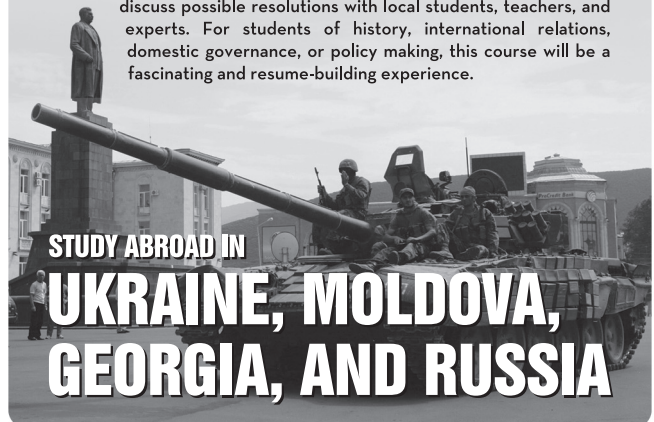
3 Nikolai Gogol, *Plays and Petersburg Tales*, trans. and ed. Christopher English (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), 35.

4 Adam Thirlwell, Introduction to Andrei Bely’s *Petersburg* (London: Penguin Books, 2011), p. xix.



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Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy: Alla Nedashkivska, *Ukrainian Through Its Living Culture* (The University of Alberta Press)

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Best Scholarly Translation into English: Joanna Trzeciak, *Sobbing Superpower: Selected Poems of Tadeusz Różewicz* by Tadeusz Różewicz (W.W. Norton & Company)

Please join AATSEEL for the AATSEEL President's Reception and Awards Ceremony will take place Friday evening, January 4 from 9-11pm at the Hyatt Regency Boston.

AWSS Outstanding Achievement Award for 2012: June Pachuta Farris

Serving for more than twenty-five years as the Bibliographer for Slavic and East European Studies at the Joseph Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago, June has developed a superb collection of Slavic, East European and Eurasian resources there, many of them found nowhere else in the world. Scholars and students at the University of Chicago are far from the only beneficiaries of her expertise, however. The entire profession has been enriched by June's unassuming yet dedicated commitment to helping scholars wherever they work. June's services to the field of women's and gender studies make her an especially deserving recipient of this award. Members of AWSS have grown to depend on her quarterly and annual Current Bibliography on Women and Gender in Russia and Eastern Europe, which has appeared in the AWSS Newsletter since 1999. Collaborating with Irina Liveazanu, Christine Worobec, and Mary Zirin, June also produced an invaluable two-volume publication, *Women and Gender in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia: A Comprehensive Bibliography* (2007). Last but far from least, June is known by her fellow Slavic librarians as a generous mentor. For her selfless, consistent, and dedicated service to scholars, students, and fellow bibliographers, AWSS is proud to honor June Pachuta Farris.

2012 Graduate Essay Prize: Chiara Bonfiglioli

The 2012 Graduate Essay Prize is awarded to **Chiara Bonfiglioli** (University of Utrecht) for "From Comrades to Traitors: The Cominform Resolution of 1948," which is chapter 5 of her recently defended dissertation, "Revolutionary Networks. Women's Political and Social Activism in Cold War Italy and Yugoslavia (1945-1957)."

2012 Heldt Prizes

Best Book by a Woman in any area of Slavic/East European/Eurasian Studies:

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, *Peasants under Siege. The Collectivization of Romanian Agriculture, 1949-1962* (Princeton University Press, 2011)

Honorable Mention: **Katerina Clark**, *Moscow, the Fourth Rome: Stalinism, Cosmopolitanism, and the Evolution of Soviet Culture, 1931-1941* (Harvard University Press, 2011)

Best book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's Studies: **Beth Holmgren**, *Starring Madame Modjeska: On Tour in Poland and America* (Indiana University Press, 2012)

Best Article in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's Studies:

Agnès Kefeli, "The Tale of Joseph and Zulykha on the Volga Frontier: The Struggle for Gender, Religious, and National Identity in Imperial and Post-Soviet Russia," *Slavic Review* 70, No. 2 (Summer 2011)

2012 Mary Zirin Prize winner: Susan N. Smith

Dr. Smith earned her Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 2005 and, without benefit of a permanent academic position, has continued to pursue an active research agenda. Her first book manuscript, currently under revision, analyzes museum practices in the provincial Russian city of Vladimir across the 1917 divide. Dr. Smith has nurtured this project along in the transition from dissertation to book manuscript while carrying the unpredictable and often heavy teaching load typical of adjunct work. Her persistence is admirable. Smith has published on this topic in one of the leading journals in our field, *The Russian Review*, and has to her credit several Russian-language publications related to her work on museum history in Vladimir that speak to her active links with her Russian colleagues.

As she moves toward competing her first book manuscript, she is launching a promising new study on post-Stalinist tourism—both domestic and international—to the so-called Golden Ring cities that encircle Moscow. The committee was impressed by the project's scope and ambition, which will be all the more challenging to pursue without the resources afforded to academics with a permanent institutional home.

Though still early in her career, Dr. Smith has already demonstrated her commitment to producing serious work as an independent scholar and the committee very much hopes that this award and the recognition it brings serves to encourage and support her in this endeavor.

The Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association Marc Raeff Book Prize winner: Marcus Levitt, *The Visual Dominant in Eighteenth-Century Russia* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2011).

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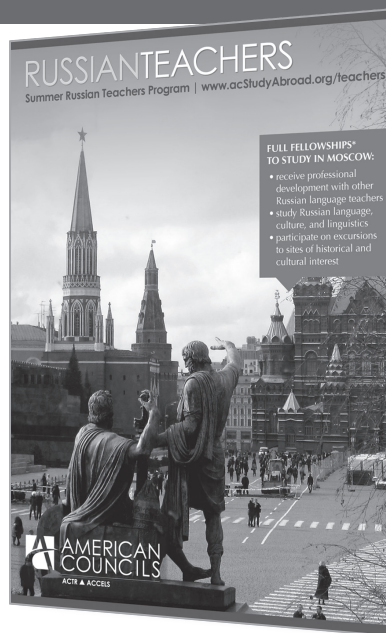
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The Havighurst Center: The First Dozen Years

Venelin Ganev, Miami University, Ohio

Among the most surprising developments in the field of Russian, East European and Eurasian studies over the last decade we should certainly count the fact that Oxford, Ohio, has become one of the most exciting and talked-about academic destinations. The explanation of this fact is simple: Oxford is the home of Miami University of Ohio, which in turn hosts the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies (<http://www.units.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter/>). The Center was established in 2000 with the help of a generous gift from distinguished Miami professor of English and nationally recognized author Walter Havighurst (1901-1994), and according to its mission statement it is “devoted to joint research by Miami faculty with other scholars from Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and from other American universities; to service and learning activities that provide a greater understanding of this region for the student community; and to programs designed to foster interdisciplinary research on the most important questions relating to the future of this area.” Today the Center is one of few academic institutions devoted entirely to interdisciplinary research on the regions which members of ASEES explore, analyze and popularize.

Directed by Karen Dawisha, the Center consists of seven full-time faculty and numerous affiliates. An important focal point of their collective efforts is Miami’s curriculum. In addition to offering classes in areas such as political science, history, religion, Russian language, anthropology, international relations and geography, Havighurst faculty developed a major in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. The effort put into that endeavor is already paying off: the new major instantly attracted the attention of bright and ambitious students, a number of whom are currently enrolled in prestigious Ph.D. programs or have embarked upon careers in the US civil and military service, Moscow- and Washington DC-based non-governmental organizations, and foreign policy think-tanks. While teaching is and will remain an essential component of the Havighurst faculty’s activities, however, the Center’s mission is defined in much broader terms: it has established itself as a national center for innovative research into the politics, economics, culture, and history of the area that stretches from Central Europe and the Balkans through the Caucasus and Central Asia to the Russian Far East. Among the reasons for this success are two initiatives that specifically target, and provide various kinds of support for, the “newcomers” to our field.

The first one is the Havighurst Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Just like other similar programs, this 2-year residential post-doc is intended to allow recent graduates to make progress with their promising research projects. But it is also fairly unique in several respects. To begin with, it provides young scholars with the opportunity to design and teach classes directly related to their area of expertise. A good example is the course currently offered by Havighurst Fellow Rad Borislavov (who earned his Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literature from the University of Chicago in 2011) on “Moscow: Text, City, Empire.” In addition, the Havighurst Fellows can benefit from daily interactions with a fairly large number of faculty members who share the commitment to study Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Finally, the post-docs are provided with the resources they need to hold a conference on a topic of their own choosing. Thus in March 2013 the Center will host a conference on “Music and Power” envisaged and organized by Havighurst Fellow Rebecca Mitchell (who obtained her Ph.D. in Russian and Soviet History from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). Hardly surprisingly, by now the Havighurst fellowship has become an important stepping stone for recent Ph.D. graduates who are trying to “make it” at a time when departments are downsized and jobs are scarce: practically all Havighurst post-docs have gone on to major positions in institutions such as Yale, Rochester, Brooklyn College, George Mason and Syracuse.

The second notable initiative sponsored by the Havighurst Center is the International Young Researchers Conference. Organized annually, this conference brings together ABDs, recent graduates and assistant professors from North America, Europe and the former Soviet Union with Havighurst faculty and senior keynote speakers for a 3-day event that combines public lectures with intensive panel sessions. The topic of the conference is selected by a Havighurst faculty on a rotating basis – and the success of this annual endeavor is not guaranteed. Inevitably, sometimes the proceedings are dominated by passionate reenactments of well-known ideological clashes or academic turf struggles, and at other times the quality of the presentations is somewhat disappointing. Over time, however, this strategy allowed the Center to pursue a diverse agenda unconstrained by disciplinary preferences, undue emphasis of certain periods and regions at the expense of others, and unwarranted reliance on a single metric of scholarly relevance. The panels and lectures are well attended by Miami undergraduates and graduate students who obviously benefit from the opportunity to get a firmer

grasp of the intellectual traditions that have sustained the field of Russian, East European and Eurasian studies. But there is also mounting evidence that at least some conferences should be considered as formative events that reshape scholarly fields and ongoing intellectual conversations. For example, the 2005 conference on *Thinking In/After Utopia: Eastern European and Russian Philosophy Before and After the Collapse of Communism* resulted in the publication of a volume of essays (*In Marx's Shadow: Knowledge, Power and Intellectuals in Eastern Europe and Russia*, edited by Costica Bradatan and Serguei Oushakine, Lexington Books, 2010) which was hailed as a major contribution to our understanding of the philosophical issues shaped and left behind by decades of state socialism. The outcome of the 2008 conference on *The Role of Law in the Construction and Destruction of Democracy in Postcommunism* was a special issue of *Demokratizatsiya* (guest-edited by Venelin I. Ganey) which blazed new trails in the empirical study of judicial institutions and law enforcement mechanisms in the former second world. And the 2010 conference on *The Gulag in History and Memory* made possible the publication of a set of articles in *The Russian Review* (guest-edited by Stephen Norris) that offered novel analyses of rich, recently uncovered data. At this point, no clear formula has emerged that would ensure the success of each conference, and the future will certainly hold letdowns as well as exhilarating experiences. There can be no doubt, however, that the Young Researchers Conferences will continue to be a valuable form of community-building: they help create a growing trans-continental network of former participants – a pool of up-and-coming academics and researchers who continue to interact with each other and on whose collaboration the Center can rely as it contemplates its future projects.

Another significant annual event held under the auspices of the Havighurst Center is the Havighurst Lecture delivered in Oxford by a leading public figure from Russia, Eastern Europe or the United States who has made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the regions that we study – including former Presidents, Prime Ministers and, cultural elites and opposition activists. The roster of recent speakers includes such recognizable names as Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, Aleksander Kwasniewski, former President of Poland, Philip Dimitrov, former Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Russian avant-garde artist Vitaly Komar and former Proctor and Gamble CEO John Pepper. The growing popularity of these lectures confirms the Center's reputation as a vibrant source of national and international debates about the future of the regions we study.

The main challenge that lies in the Havighurst Center's immediate future is the transition to a new Director, scheduled for 2014-2015. But even a development of that magnitude will not cause a reordering of the institution's priorities: to contribute to interdisciplinary and international programs on Miami University's campus – and to continue to be a place of attraction for nationally recognized experts in the field of Russian, Soviet and East European studies. How this field will change over the next decades is hard to foresee. But one particular aspect of its future might be easy to predict: memories of time spent together in Oxford, Ohio, will feature prominently in the conversations of an increasing number of ASEES members from around the world.





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America's Russian-Speaking Immigrants and Refugees: Twentieth Century Migration and Memory.

*A National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College & University Teachers
Columbia University in the City of New York, Sunday June 9-Saturday, June 29, 2013.*

This Institute will consider the substance of the terms “diaspora,” “transnational,” “accommodation,” and “memory” through the specific prism of the four distinct waves—First (1917-40), Second (1947-55), Third (1967-89), and Fourth (1989 to the present)—of Russian-speaking immigrants to America. One of the core issues addressed is whether we can create a sophisticated narrative synthesis of the “Russophone Experience” in America, that could be *integrated into broader courses on American politics and immigration, sociology, anthropology, and ethnic studies*. More than this, can this synthesis be applied to the experience of *other* immigrant groups?

Institute applicants—current faculty members at U.S. institutions, independent scholars, museum curators, and up to three advanced graduate students—will compete for the twenty-five available Summer Scholar spots. Over a three-week period, this select group will engage in a lively dialogue with an extraordinary array of upwards of fifty master teachers, scholars, and social services and community representatives of the last three waves of emigration (and with the children of the first).

A full description, daily schedule, and application information will be found at: NEHSummerinst.Columbia.edu



In Memoriam

Herbert J. Ellison died on October 9, 2012, at the age of 83. He was professor emeritus of history and international studies and former director of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Ellison taught at the UW for 34 years and was for decades considered among the world's leading figures in the field of Soviet and post-Soviet studies.

Besides serving as director of the Jackson School of International Studies, Ellison also held leadership positions in many major national organizations. He was director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington, D.C., where his role as a government adviser was recognized by President Ronald Reagan. Ellison also took the lead in establishing language programs in Russia for American students.

He researched and wrote about Soviet history, post-Soviet international relations and foreign policy toward Western Europe, Sino-Soviet relations, the nature of Gorbachev's perestroika and the role of post-Soviet Russia in the changing international arena of Northeast Asia. His book *Boris Yeltsin and Russia's Democratic Transformation* was published in 2006 (University of Washington Press); critics regarded it as an accessible and well-written look at that era of Russian history. Ellison also served as executive producer and chief consultant for the PBS/BBC television series "Messengers from Moscow," on the history of the Cold War, as well as the PBS documentary "The Real Boris Yeltsin," which was nominated for an Emmy award.

In 2005 his name was given to the Herbert J. Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. The center funds interdisciplinary research, graduate students, international exchange programs and other initiatives to advance understanding about the region.

Gale Stokes, the Mary Gibbs Stokes Professor Emeritus of History and a former dean of the School of Humanities, died unexpectedly Nov. 4. He was 79. He is remembered for his service as dean of the School of Humanities from 2000 to 2003. A former captain in the U.S. Air Force, Gale ran a tight school and was always fair and decisive. He was instrumental in the planning and execution of the Humanities Building and the renovations to Rayzor and Herring halls. In 1968 Stokes came to Rice, where he specialized in the history of Eastern Europe, Balkan history and nationalism. In addition to serving as dean of Humanities, he was chair of the History Department from 1980 to 1982 and 1997 to 2000.

He received his doctorate from Indiana University, where he earned the Distinguished Alumni Award

from the Russian and East European Institute in 1995. He authored more than 40 articles and eight books, including *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945*, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe*, *Three Eras of Political Change in Eastern Europe* and *The West Transformed*. He received the 1994 Vucinich Prize for the best book in the field of Russian, Eurasian and East European studies. He also served as ASEES president in 2003. Stokes was the recipient of numerous awards and grants over the years. He was honored three times at Rice with the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching.

Ladislav Matějka, emeritus professor of Slavic languages and literatures, at University of Michigan passed away at the end of September at the age of 93.

Professor Matějka was born and educated in the former Czechoslovakia; by the time he received his doctorate in Slavic literature he had already become the culture editor for the liberal Prague daily newspaper *Lidové noviny*. A neo-Stalinist political coup in February 1948 led to his exile. After teaching for several years at the University of Lund in Sweden, he went on to earn a second Ph.D. from Harvard University in Slavic linguistics. He joined the faculty at Michigan in 1959. In 1962 he helped found Michigan Slavic Publications and became its general editor. With little funding, but with enormous time and energy, he built the Slavic department press into a prominent publisher of scholarly works in Slavic languages, literatures and cultures. Two decades later, Matějka founded the journal *Cross Currents: A Yearbook of Central European Culture*, which for over a decade published works by leading dissident East European authors, whose works were often banned in their home countries. *Cross Currents* was hailed by The Times Literary Supplement as "the leading English language forum for literature and criticism from central Europe."

Matějka was a scholar with broad interests, author of five books and scores of articles. In 1989 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Lund and a year later was elected a corresponding member of the Assembly of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts. In the 1990s and 2000s, Matějka edited and published three volumes of correspondence of famous Czech actors of the interwar Liberated Theater in Prague, from 1945-1980. In 2007, the second book in the series was named "Book of the Year" in Prague. In 2009, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic awarded Matějka the prestigious Gratias Agit Award for his "promotion of the good name of the Czech Republic abroad."



2012 Executive Director Report

As the year 2012 comes to an end, I hereby submit the following annual report to the members.

2012 was a good year for ASEEES but also a challenging one in some ways. I am happy to report that ASEEES is in good financial standing. After incurring major expenses due to the move from Harvard to Pittsburgh, we are finally in the clear of the extraneous expenses and had lower operational expenditures in 2012.

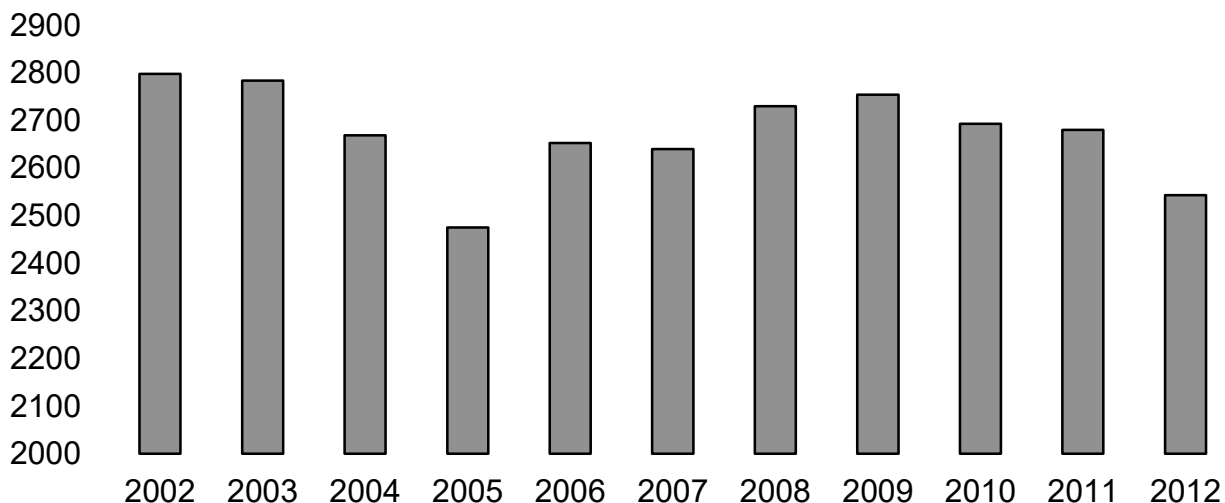
Membership

ASEEES membership fluctuates year to year, often based on the convention location. We saw a decrease in individual membership for 2012. We have 2,544 members with 526 being student members (20.7% of total membership), compared to 2011 in which we had 2,680 members with 535 student members. I am particularly concerned to see a noticeable drop in membership in the mid-range income categories, although we saw increases in some of the other categories. This can be interpreted as a sign of the economic times in which we all live. Nonetheless, it is a concern for the Association, and I plan to keep a close eye on this development. For trends in membership over the last decade, please see the table appended to this report.

In 2011 we set a goal to increase our membership back to 3,000 by 2013; as ambitious as this may sound in light of current trends, we plan to work diligently towards the goal. The fact that the convention is in Boston with a new requirement that all convention participants who are in the field both in the US and abroad must be members should help us in reaching this goal. Starting in 2013 we have also instituted a new discounted membership type for scholars who permanently reside in Russia, East-Central Europe and Eurasia and meet the income eligibility requirement. This new membership offer is part of our broader plan to internationalize the Association further in terms of its membership and reach.

In terms of institutional membership, we achieved our goal to increase our members. For 2012 we have 59 members: 14 premium members (2 new members) and 45 regular institutional members (8 new) for 2012; we had 52 members in 2011—13 premium members and 39 regular members. Throughout the year, we reached out to prospective institutions, and we are delighted to have ten new institutional members, including four international institutions. Again as part of the plan to internationalize ASEEES, we plan to reach out to other institutions abroad in 2013.

ASEEES Membership by Year



Convention

The 44th Annual Convention held at the New Orleans Marriott, November 15-18, 2012, drew 1878 attendees. The convention included 370 panels, 100 roundtables, and 34 meetings. In the Exhibit Hall 52 companies/organizations showcased their products and programs in 55 booths. The disciplinary breakdown of the sessions is: 31.7 percent in history, 28.3 percent in language, literature and culture, 12.1 percent in social sciences, 1.1 percent in religion, 1.9 percent in library and information sciences, 1.5 percent in gender studies, 2.6 percent in Jewish studies, and 22.1 percent in interdisciplinary and themed panels. The Presidential Plenary on "Interdisciplinarity/Multidisciplinarity" involved a stimulating discussion with Gerald Creed, Caryl Emerson and Mark Steinberg. Judith Deutsch Kornblatt gave her presidential address on "'Boundary, Barrier and Border Crossing," which included a dramatic reading of the Prologue to Bely's *Petersburg*. We thank the Convention Program Committee, especially the co-chairs, Rex Wade and Michael Hickey, for their dedication and hard work on the convention.

The 45th Annual Convention will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place on Nov. 21-24, 2013. The program committee chair is Valerie Sperling, and the associate chair is Kristen Ghodsee. We are delighted to announce that we plan to provide LCD projector setup for all panels and roundtables. We note that the new a-v policy will add a significant expense to the convention budget as the hotel fees for a-v rental are exorbitant, but the ASEEEES Board felt that this was a necessary change to enhance the convention experience. We are also offering a new online Panel/Paper wanted-board for members to post their topics, which should help facilitate panel creation. We also hope to offer more professional development sessions and ask members to consider creating such sessions.

Status of Federal Funding

A major challenge not only for the Association but for the field has been the uncertain status of federal funding, especially Title VI and Title VIII.

The US Department of Education Title VI/Fulbright-Hays program funds the National Resource Centers, FLASes, and the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, among other international education programs. In the Fiscal Year(FY) 2011, the Title VI funding was unexpectedly cut by some 40%. It remained flat in FY 2012, but in the current federal budget climate, we are concerned about maintaining even the existing level of funding. Any further reduction would have serious consequences for the

area studies centers as well as international education more generally across the US.

The US State Department's Title VIII program funds much of advanced research in our field for US scholars. The Title VIII-funded grants are administered in general by organizations such as ACLS, IREX, ACIE, NCEEER, SSRC, and the Woodrow Wilson Center/Kennan Institute. Title VIII also funds the Slavic Reference Service and the Summer Research Lab at the University of Illinois; and lately it has provided support for Indiana U SWSEEL and Arizona State's Critical Language Institute. In FY 2012 Title VIII funding was cut by 30% after threats of even further reduction. We are very concerned about the future of the Title VIII program, which has played an instrumental role in generating expertise in our field.

To address the federal funding situation, Steve Hanson, as the incoming President-Elect, will lead the new ad hoc Advocacy Committee to promote the importance of area/regional studies more effectively. The advocacy work will be challenging, but one that we must take on.

Fundraising/Development

In view of the uncertain federal funding as well as the general economic climate, ASEEEES has been working to establish a more robust development plan to provide financial support for our members in terms of research and professional development. Since the successful conclusion of the Kathryn Davis Matching Fund drive in 2011, we have been in the planning phase for the next development campaign. An ad hoc Development Committee, made up of Mark Beissinger (chair), Judith Deutsch Kornblatt, Bill Rosenberg, Norman Naimark, and myself (ex officio), produced an initial development proposal. One proposed program that was approved by the Board is the Regional Scholar Travel Grant program, which will provide small travel grants for members from Russia, East-Central Europe and Eurasia to attend the ASEEEES convention. The funds for the program will come from the ASEEEES endowment and contributions. More details regarding this program will be announced in the spring. We are also in the process of establishing a permanent development committee.

ASEEEES Online

We experienced many changes to our online presence in 2012. As of January, *Slavic Review* became part of JS-TOR's Current Scholarship Program, with the current issues being available online. We have a new convention management software as well as a new member site and database.

We ask for your patience as we work through glitches and functionality differences from the previous system. In 2013 we anticipate a redesign of the ASEEEES public website. In addition to the website, we have been using social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, more regularly. As of December 16, we have 2,375 fans on our Facebook page; the most popular age group is 25-34 years old. On LinkedIn, we have 2,095 members. The two demographic groups do not necessarily overlap; and they are not all members. I see both of these sites as marketing sites for ASEEEES, as a way to recruit more members.

Election/Board Members

Our annual election for the Board of Directors was successfully held, with 50 percent of eligible voters participating, which is a phenomenal rate. The election results were the following: Steve Hanson elected vice-president/president-elect for 2013-2015; Adeeb Khalid and Jane Sharp elected members-at-large for 2013-2015. Other incoming Board members in 2013 are: Brian Baer as the Council of Regional Affiliates representative, 2013-2014; Megan Dixon as the AAG representative, 2013-2015; and Valeria Sobol as the AATSEEL representative, 2013-2015. Will Pomeranz will serve another term as the Council of Institutional Members representative for 2013-2015.

Finally, I would like to thank the ASEEEES Board and committee members for their dedication and service. The Association and our scholarly community benefit enormously from their time and effort.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lynda Park, Executive Director

Forthcoming in *Slavic Review*

Spring 2013

DISCUSSION

The Question of the Perpetrator in Soviet History
Lynne Viola

Comment: Twin Pyramids—Perpetrators and Victims
Wendy Z. Goldman

Comment: Making Perpetrators
Peter Fritzsche

ARTICLES

Anti-Westernism on the European Periphery:
The Meaning of Soviet-Turkish Convergence in the 1930s
Samuel J. Hirst

Yugonostalgia and Yugoslav Cultural Memory: *Lexicon of Yugoslav
Mythology*
Aleksandar Bošković

Amnesia and the Externalized Personality in
Early Dostoevskii
Yuri Corrigan

One Day—Fifty Years Later
Andrew Wachtel



Personages

In the 1960s Stephen Spender knew Joseph Brodsky only by reputation, as a poet imprisoned in the Soviet Union. They met for the first time in 1972 when W. H. Auden brought Brodsky, who had been expelled a few days earlier from his country, to London to the Poetry International and they stayed with the Spenders. There was an instant connection. The Joseph Brodsky/Stephen Spender Prize, instigated by Maria Brodsky and Natasha Spender, celebrates the poets' long friendship and the rich tradition of Russian poetry. The winners of the 2012 Joseph Brodsky/Stephen Spender Prize are:

1st: **Boris Dralyuk** and **Irina Mashinski** for "Field Hospital" by Arseny Tarkovsky

2nd: **Iryna Shuvalova** for "The Prayer of the Touch" by Sergei Chegra

3rd: **Alexandra Berlina** for "You can't tell a gnat" by Joseph Brodsky

The editors and partners of Cardinal Points Literary Journal are pleased to announce the results of the 2012 Compass Translation competition (Russian poetry in English). The Compass Award was established in 2011 by Cardinal Points Journal in order to recognize the best English translations of Russian poetry. Each year the competition is dedicated to the works of a particular Russian poet. In the inaugural 2011 competition, the poet was Nikolay Gumilyov. In 2012, the poet is Marina Tsvetaeva.

The prize committee received more than 70 translations of Marina Tsvetaeva's poems, rendered by contestants from the U.S., Russia, Europe, Egypt, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. The winners were selected in early October. They are:

1st: The Poem of the End, **Alyssa Gillespie**, USA
2nd: Upon a Red Steed, **Brian Droitcour**, USA
3rd: An Attempt at Jealousy, **Leah Goldberger**, Egypt and **Eugene Serebryany**, USA

David Moon has recently moved to a new post as Anniversary Professor in History at York University, UK.

In November 2012, The Harriman Institute honored **Catharine Nepomnyashchy** as Alumna of the year.

Laurie Stoff, Department of History at Louisiana Tech University was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and granted the William Y. Thompson Endowed Professorship in History. She is currently on leave after receiving the Louisiana State Board of Regents ATLAS (Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars) grant to complete her current book project on women's nursing in Russia during World War I.

Russell Scott Valentino has been awarded a 3-year, \$225,000 collaborative NEH grant to work with colleagues at the Russian State Humanities University and the University of Zadar on the topic "Translation and the Making of World Literature," which will explore the myriad ways by which works from one national tradition become acculturated in another. Additionally, as of January, 2013, he will take on the role of Professor and Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Indiana University, Bloomington.

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Publications

Americans Experience Russia: Encountering the Enigma, 1917 to the Present, edited by Choi Chatterjee and Beth Holmgren, (Routledge, 2012), analyzes how American scholars, journalists, and artists experienced Russia/the Soviet Union over the last century. This may be the first history that examines how Americans' encounters with Russian/Soviet society shaped their representations of a Russian/Soviet 'other' and its relationship with an American 'west.' The essays in this volume critically engage with postcolonial theories which posit that a self-valorizing, unmediated west dictated the colonial encounter, repressing native voices that must be recovered. Unlike western imperialists and their colonial subjects, Americans and Russians long co-existed in a tense parity, regarding each other as other-than-European equals, sometime cultural role models, temporary allies, and political antagonists. In examining the fiction, film, journalism, treatises, and histories Americans produced out of their 'Russian experience,' the contributors to this volume closely analyze these texts, locate them in their sociopolitical context, and gauge how their producers' profession, politics, gender, class, and interaction with native Russian interpreters conditioned their authored responses to Russian/Soviet reality. The volume also explores the blurred boundaries between national identities and representations of self/other after the Soviet Union's fall.

Douglas Smith's *Former People: The Final Days of the Russian Aristocracy* was published in October 2012 by Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.

Hooligans in Khrushchev's Russia: Defining, Policing, and Producing Deviance during the Thaw by Brian LaPierre (U of Wisconsin Press, 2012), offers the first comprehensive study of how Soviet police, prosecutors, judges, and ordinary citizens during the Khrushchev era understood, fought against, or embraced this catch-all category of criminality. Using a wide range of newly opened archival sources, it portrays the Khrushchev period—usually considered as a time of liberalizing reform and reduced repression—as an era of renewed harassment against a wide range of state-defined undesirables and as a time when policing and persecution were expanded to encompass the mundane aspects of everyday life. In an atmosphere of Cold War competition, foreign cultural penetration, and transatlantic anxiety over “rebels without a cause,” hooliganism emerged as a vital tool that post-Stalinist elites used to civilize their uncultured working class, confirm their embattled cultural ideals, and create the right-thinking and right-acting socialist society of their dreams.

John K. Cox recently published three volumes of translations of the work of Danilo Kiš with Dalkey Archive. The works are *Mansarda*, a novel of bohemian postwar Belgrade; *Psalm 44*, Kiš' long-neglected first novel on the Holocaust in Vojvodina and Auschwitz; and a posthumous short story collection, *The*

Lute and the Scars. Cox also supplied a critical essay and notes for each volume.

The New Age of Russia: Occult and Esoteric Dimensions, edited by Birgit Menzel, Michael Hagemeyer, and Bernice Glatzer Rosenthal, was published by Kubon and Sagner, 2012. Occult and esoteric ideas became deeply embedded in Russian culture long before the Bolshevik Revolution. After the Revolution, occult ideas were manifested in literature, the humanities and the sciences as well. Although the Soviet government discouraged and eventually prohibited metaphysical speculation, that same government used the Occult for its own purposes and even funded research on it. In Stalin's time, occultism disappeared from public view, but it revived clandestinely in the post-Stalin Thaw and became a truly popular phenomenon in post-Soviet Russia. From cosmism to shamanism, from space exploration to Kabbalah, from neo-paganism to science fiction, the field is wide. This book documents the occult and esoteric's continued importance in Russia and raises new issues for research and discussion.

David Moon's new book, *The Plough that Broke the Steppes: Agriculture and Environment on Russia's Grasslands, 1700-1914*, will be published by Oxford University Press in early 2013.

Bill Reisinger edited *Russia's Regions and Comparative Subnational Politics* (Routledge, 2012). Chapters were authored by Vladimir Gel'man, Bill Reisinger, Bryon J. Moraski, Henry E. Hale, Timothy J. Colton, Rostislav Turovsky, Yoshiko Herrera, Nicole M. Butkovich Kraus, Andrei Akhremenko, Thomas F. Remington and Donna Bahry.

Women and Men at War: A Gender Perspective on World War II and its Aftermath in Central and Eastern Europe. ed. by Maren Röger/Ruth Leiserowitz. (Fibre Verlag Inh, 2012). World War II fundamentally changed Central and Eastern Europe societies. Social bonds and structures were destroyed by brutal occupation policies and extensive deportations. These had long-term consequences for the societies as a whole, but also for individuals. Not least of all, gender roles and gender relations were influenced by it. Research into this everyday and gender historical dimension has often come up short, resulting in an obscured view of the effects in the post-war period. This volume represents a collection of contributions about different countries in this region. The central questions are (1) about the ideological promptings and the everyday transformation of gender roles in the occupation and defense armies as well as in the partisan groups; (2) about the power of gendered interpretive models in official propaganda and the individual self-understanding of those who were occupiers and those being occupied; and (3) the corresponding effects of the war on the post-war period. Gender-specific bodily experiences also play an important role.



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ALEXANDER STATIEV

"La Garde meurt mais ne se rend pas!"

ZBIGNIEW WOJNOWSKI

De-Stalinization and Soviet Patriotism

ERIK R. SCOTT

Edible Ethnicity

Forum: Local and Regional Administration

Contributions by SERGEI LIUBICHANKOVSKII, CATHERINE

EVTUHOV, and SUSANNE SCHATTENBERG, with an introduction

by PAUL W. WERTH

Review Article

MARA KOZELSKY

The Crimean War, 1853–56

Review Essays

ALEXANDER MORRISON

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ANDREAS OBERENDER

Stalin's Postwar Foreign Policy

Review Forum: Debating Prince A.M. Kurbskii

Contributions by BRIAN J. BOECK and ALEXANDER FILJUSHKIN,

with an introduction by SERGEI BOGATYREV



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REGION(S) OF INTEREST

- Balkans
- Baltic States
- Caucasus
- Central Asia
- Central Europe
- Eastern Europe
- Former Soviet Union
- Habsburg Empire
- Ottoman Empire
- Siberia

POSITION(S)

More positions available online

- Administrator
- Attorney
- Clergy
- Consultant
- Curator
- Editor / Publisher
- Instructor / Teacher
- Lecturer
- Librarian / Info Specialist
- Post-Doctoral Fellow
- Professor, Adjunct
- Professor, Assistant
- Professor, Associate
- Professor, Emeritus
- Professor, Full
- Researcher
- Retired
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- Translator
- Writer
- Other _____

SPECIALIZATION(S)

More specializations available online

- Anthropology
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- Ethnic Studies
- Folklore
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- Interdisciplinary
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- Literature
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- Political Science
- Psychology / Psychiatry
- Public Health / Medicine
- Religion
- Science / Technology
- Sociology
- Translation Studies
- Urban Studies
- Women's Studies
- Other _____

COUNTRIES OF INTEREST

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- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
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- Latvia
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- Hungarian
- Kazak
- Kyrgyz
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- Lithuanian
- Macedonian
- Mongolian
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- Polish
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- Russian
- Serbian
- Slovak
- Slovene
- Tajik
- Tatar
- Turkmen
- Uighur
- Ukrainian
- Uzbek
- Yiddish
- Other _____

PERIOD(S) OF INTEREST

- pre-18th Century 18th Century 19th Century 20th Century 21st Century

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- Curator
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- Instructor / Teacher
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- Professor, Assistant
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- Professor, Full
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- Political Science
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- Other _____

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- Latvian
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- Russian
- Serbian
- Slovak
- Slovene
- Tajik
- Tatar
- Turkmen
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- Ukrainian
- Uzbek
- Yiddish
- Other _____

PERIOD(S) OF INTEREST

- pre-18th Century 18th Century 19th Century 20th Century 21st Century



Asia-Pacific Research Center, Seoul Korea

By Prof. Sang Hyun Kim, APRC

The 4th International Conference on Russian and Eurasian Studies and Asia-Pacific Research Center at Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea

As the flagship institute both in Korea and East Asia, the Asia-Pacific Research Center (APRC) at Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea (<http://www.eurasiahub.org/eng/contents/main.asp>) has enjoyed its reputation as a leading source of in-depth analysis and reporting that have influenced policy in Eurasia and a hub for important international conferences on related studies.

Formerly known as the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies founded in 1974, the APRC has stood as a representative institute for the study of politics and economies of socialist/post-socialist countries. Also recently, it has served as the leading research and education center in humanities, especially related to Russian and Eurasian studies.

2007 marked the most exciting and significant year in the APRC's history: the Center won a ten-year research grant (\$6 million USD) from the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRFK). Under the name "HK Project," which means Humanities Korea, the APRC has been conducting research entitled "Identity and Cultural Coexistence in Eurasia: Establishment of Eurasian Studies and a Comprehensive Regional and Information System." Additionally, APRC produces several types of publications: briefing papers, conference proceedings, serialized books, and other research reports.

To complement the HK Project, the Center launched a biannual scholarly journal, *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, produced by Elsevier in the Netherlands with the assistance of an international editorial board. (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-urasian-studies/>) Within the broad rubric of Eurasian studies, the journal focuses on the following seven topics in particular: 1) national identity, 2) political and economic transition, 3) migration, 4) energy problems, 5) international development, 6) culturalology, and 7) the history of everyday life. The journal's creation and the production of its first six issues have been an important achievement for the APRC, and the enthusiastic reception of the journal from the world scholarly community bodes well for its future. Particularly, the six articles from the first issue have drawn much attention from scholars and experts: "So-

viet Nostalgia and Russian Politics" (S. White), "The Pawn of Great Powers: The East-West Competition for Caucasus" (R. G. Suny), "Eurasia: What Is It? Is It?" (A. Gleason), "Eurasian Polities as Hybrid Regimes: The Case of Putin's Russia" (H. E. Hale), "Cultural Geopolitics and the New Border Regions of Eurasia" (K. Matsuzato), "Regime Changes despite Legitimacy Crises: Exit, Voice, and Loyalty in Post-Communist Russia" (M. Gel'man).

The Journal of Eurasian Studies' primary mission is to establish a nexus as well as global networks for scholarly dialogues and professional exploration. Given that Eurasia had been historically isolated from many other European and Asian countries and as Eurasian states have become more integrated into a broader global economic and political order, the current issue of nation- and state-building among the Eurasian states triggers a number of scholarly debates. JES selected the above-mentioned seven topics in order to develop more comparative analyses and constructive relationships between Eurasia and other European and Asian countries. In doing so, *JES* internationalizes local concerns within Eurasia and introduces wider comparative perspectives to the discussion, thus accomplishing its primary goal of presenting "transnational aspects of the Eurasian issues."

The APRC and the journal's staff members are very proud of *JES's* existence and its contribution to Eurasian studies. The journal, in turn, reinforces the APRC as Korea's premier institute of Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies, and helps it to bring together scholars to consider a range of themes that span the social sciences and humanities. Since 2007 the APRC has been working to develop a diverse and dynamic international conference series on Russian and Eurasian Studies, including a conference which marked the 20th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In 2012, the Center held its 4th conference entitled "Where is Eurasian Studies Heading For?: Global Talks with Scholars, Directors, and Editors" on October 11-12, 2012. Unlike the previous conferences, this year's topic had a more practical, administrative, policy-driven agenda. Specifically, the conference considered related institutions' and journals' accomplishments and their prospective/potential contributions to a common vision and agenda for the future of Russian and Eurasian studies. Not just to advance our vigorous research agenda but to share our tradition and achievements

in government relations, policymaking, and establishment of Eurasian studies in Korea, the APRC invited Slavists from other countries to share their experiences and discuss ways in which we can work together to strengthen our field. We thank ASEES for its participation in the conference.

The APRC prides itself on international collaboration with other institutes of higher learning. It cooperates with major Russian, American, and Europe-based universities and institutes, such as the Institute of Far Eastern Studies and the Russian Academy of Science. Over the past decade, the APRC has been working with institutions in Central Asia, increasing the Center's ties to the region. Our extensive institutional experience in international cooperation suggests that we will enjoy continued success in developing meaningful collaboration. If your institution is interested in collaborating with the APRC, please contact me at jes.articles@gmail.com.



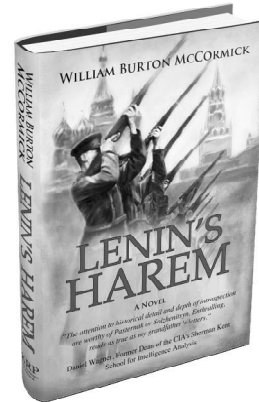
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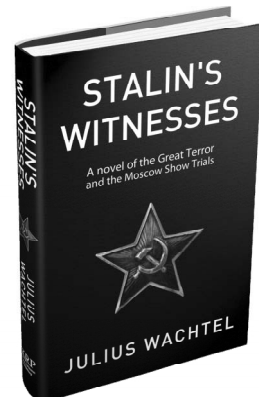
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Institutional Member News

14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL POST-SECONDARY RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST SPONSORED BY ACTR

Teachers must register interested students. Please note that one teacher at each participating institution must be a current member of ACTR. Be sure to indicate this person on your registration form. To register students, send a registration form and check made out to "ACTR" to Tony Brown at the address to follow. All registrations must be received by January 31, 2013. (Payment can be received later since we understand that approval for final payment may take several weeks at your institution.) When registering students, consult the criteria on the ACTR website to select the appropriate level. Teachers may not substitute students for those registered by the deadline. No refunds are available for students who don't show up for the essay contest.

Teachers whose students are participating in the contest will receive directions and the essay topic in late January 2013. Students will write their essays between Feb. 1 and Feb. 15, 2013 at a time selected by the instructor at each institution. Students cannot use books or notes and may not work together. Essays must be written legibly in blue or black ink and on lined paper provided by instructors. The time limit for writing the essays will be one hour. After students complete the essay, teachers will make four photocopies of each essay as per the directions and then send the originals and three photocopies to Tony Brown within 48 hours of the test date. All essays will be evaluated anonymously. Essays will be ranked according to levels, within two categories (non-heritage learners and heritage learners). Judges will evaluate essays according to content (the ability to express ideas in Russian and communicate information about the topic) and length, lexicon, syntax, structure (grammatical and orthographic accuracy), and originality or creativity.

Awards will be announced in the ACTR Letter and Web site, and the AATSEEL Web site. The best gold ribbon essays will be published in the ACTR Letter.

Teachers with questions about the essay contest should contact: Tony Brown, Dept. of German and Russian, Brigham Young University, 3093 JFSB, Provo, Utah 84602, 801-422-7012, tony_brown@byu.edu

AMERICAN COUNCILS 2013 SUMMER RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS PROGRAM

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS is now accepting applications for the 2013 Summer Russian Language Teachers Program at Moscow State University. Twelve finalists will be selected to receive program funding from the U.S. Department of Education (Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad). All program expenses will be paid for these participants (*less an initial program administration fee and domestic travel to and from Washington, D.C.).

Applications for the Summer 2013 program are due March 1st. Interested applicants can access the online application at: www.acStudyAbroad.org/sumteach

The Summer Russian Language Teachers Program is a six-week program in Russian language, culture, and linguistics for pre- and in-service teachers of Russian language. Applicants must be either graduate students preparing for a career in Russian-language education or current teachers of Russian at any school level. Applications from K-12 teachers of Russian are especially encouraged. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The fellowship provides:

- Full tuition and housing at Moscow State University;
- Roundtrip airfare from Washington, D.C. to Moscow;
- Pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C.;
- Pre- and post-program testing
- Russian visa;
- A weekly stipend of \$180;
- Cultural excursions, including a trip to the Golden Ring
- Medical insurance; and
- Ten graduate hours of credit from Bryn Mawr College.

AMERICAN COUNCILS SUMMER 2013 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN RUSSIA, EURASIA, AND THE BALKANS
ACTR/ACCELS is now accepting applications for its Summer 2013 study abroad programs:

- Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program
- Business Russian Language and Internship Program
- Russian Heritage Speakers Program
- Eurasian Regional Language Program
- Balkan Language Initiative
- Energy in Central Asia Program (ECAP)

<http://acStudyAbroad.org> or by emailing outbound@americancouncils.org.

AMERICAN COUNCILS OFFERS FELLOWSHIPS

American Councils for International Education proudly offers Title VIII Grants for Research and Advanced Language Training programs in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Southeast Europe, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

Fellowships are offered in two categories:

- Title VIII Research Scholar Program
Provides full support for 3-9 month research trips to Russia, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Southeast Europe, Ukraine, and Moldova. Fellowships include roundtrip international travel, housing and living stipend, visa support, medical insurance, archive access, and logistical support in the field. Open to U.S. graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty.
- Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training (CRLT) Program

Provides full support for research and up to ten academic hours per week of advanced language instruction for three-to-nine months in Russia, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Southeast Europe, Ukraine, and Moldova. Fellowships include roundtrip international travel, housing and living stipend, tuition, visa support, medical insurance, archive access, and logistical support in the field.

For a full list of countries eligible for each fellowship, please see: <http://researchfellowships.americancouncils.org/>

American Councils Title VIII Research Fellowships are open to U.S. graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty. The annual application deadline is October 1. Applications can be downloaded at: <http://researchfellowships.americancouncils.org/>

All competitions for funding are open and merit based. Applications will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, political affiliation, or disability. Only U.S. citizens are eligible for these awards. Funding for these programs is available through American Councils from the U.S. Dept. of State's Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII).

EARLY RUSSIAN ITINERARIES: MOVEMENT AND THE SPACE OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC) at the UIUC announces the Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum, to be held in Urbana, Illinois on June 14-15, 2013. This year's conference, "Early Russian Itineraries" will focus on the production of Russian Imperial space by bringing to the fore the movement and circulation of material objects, peoples and ideas within and across the imperial domain. The chronological focus of this event will be on the long eighteenth century (1650-1825), but earlier periods may be discussed as well.

Partial financial support for travel and housing expenses will be offered to eligible conference participants as funding permits. Supplementary funds may also be available for eligible applicants to the Russian, East-European, Eurasian Center's Summer Research Lab. <http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/>.

Please contact co-organizers Rachel Koroloff (rkoro102@illinois.edu) or John Randolph (jwr@illinois.edu), with any questions about this event.

UPITT'S GRADUATE ORGANIZATION FOR THE STUDY OF EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (GOSECA) TO HOST 10TH ANNUAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE: "THREATS: PERCEPTION AND REALITY"

In recent years "threats," real or perceived, have captured the attention of experts in various fields of scholarship and policy-making. From fear of "the other" to geopolitical security concerns, "threats" help determine individual and collective identities, institutional organization, and the patterns of everyday life in Europe and the former Soviet Union in the 20th and 21st

centuries. How, why, and to what effect are "threats" presented in academic discourse, cultural production, international relations, and domestic politics? What subjective and objective criteria are used to judge groups, individuals, ideas, or practices as "threatening?" What are the bases of these threats, and how are they articulated? What is the impact of "threats" on power relations, social hierarchies, and access to political, economic, and socio-cultural resources?

This conference engages with the construction of "threats," the understanding of danger, and possible responses to them in this region in the present and recent past. It addresses the influence of politicians, the military, artists, writers, businessmen, the media, and other social actors in generating and shaping awareness of "threats." The conference is open to all current graduate and professional students and those who have completed their programs within the past year. The conference will take place from February 22 - 24, 2013. The event will be hosted on the University of Pittsburgh campus. For further information, please contact goseca.pitt@gmail.com.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE TO HOST CONFERENCE
The Russian and East European Institute of Indiana University announces the conference "Ready for Democracy? Religion and Political Culture in the Orthodox and Islamic Worlds." At the event, which will take place on February 28-March 2 at Indiana University-Bloomington, scholars will examine common assumptions about the limits to democratic practices in societies that are largely Orthodox or Islamic.

We hope that this conference will offer scholars from a variety of disciplines interested in these two religious traditions and their political contexts an opportunity to compare notes and perhaps develop common frameworks for speaking about religion's place in the debates about democracy that have become more intense in the wake of the Arab Spring and the recent Russian protests. For more information, go to: <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/conference/confindex.shtml>.

INSTITUTE OF MODERN RUSSIA ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGES

The Institute of Modern Russia recently welcomed Vladimir Kara-Murza as a Senior Policy Advisor. His responsibilities include the Institute's outreach, policy analysis and editorial management. Kara-Murza previously served as the Washington bureau chief of RTVi.

Boris Bruk joined IMR as a Policy Analyst and Public Affairs Specialist. Boris is currently a Ph.D Candidate in Public Administration and Public Affairs at Virginia Tech. At the IMR team, Boris Bruk will be responsible for conducting research, policy analysis, and project management.

Olga Khvostunova, who joined the Institute in 2010 as a Research Associate, became IMR Policy Advisor and Research

Fellow. Former Fulbright Scholar, she remains affiliated with the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, as a Visiting Scholar.

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE
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Grant Opportunities can be found at www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan.

KENNAN INSTITUTE TITLE VIII-SUPPORTED RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIPS: 3-9 months duration

Title VIII Research Scholarships are available to academic participants in the early stages of their career (before tenure) or scholars whose careers have been interrupted or delayed. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected. Eligibility is limited to the postdoctoral level for academic participants, although doctoral candidates in the process of completing a dissertation may apply (the dissertation must be successfully defended before taking residence at the Kennan Institute). Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Research proposals examining the countries of Central Eurasia are eligible. Proposals related to regional Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, Belarus, the Caucasus, and contemporary issues are particularly welcome. The Title VIII Research Scholar grant offers a stipend of \$3,300 per month, research facilities, computer support, and some research assistance. Grant recipients are required to be in residence at the Institute in D.C. for the duration of their grant. One round of competitive Title VIII Research Scholar selection is held per year. The deadline for receipt of applications and supporting materials is December 1, 2012. Application materials must be submitted by mail; emailed or faxed materials will not be considered. Applications can be obtained here <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan> or by contacting Lauren Crabtree.

The Research Scholar Program is supported by the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) of the United States Department of State.

KENNAN INSTITUTE SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS:

2 months duration

Scholars who conduct research in the social sciences or humanities focusing on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States), and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the D.C. area should consider applying for the summer research grants. These grants must be used between May-September 2012, and applicants are required to hold an MA degree or higher. The Summer Research Scholarships will provide a stipend of \$6,400 for 62 days, research facilities, computer support, and some research assistance. Travel and accommodation expenses are not covered by this grant.

Applicants are required to submit a concise description (700-800 words) of his or her research project, C.V., a statement

on preferred dates of residence in D.C., and two letters of recommendation specifically in support of the research to be conducted at the Institute. All of these materials may be submitted via e-mail except for the letters of recommendation. The letters should be sent, with signature, either by fax or post. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens. Applications should be submitted in clear dark type, printed on one side only, without staples. Closing date is December 1, 2012.

KENNAN INSTITUTE SHORT-TERM GRANTS:

Up to one month's duration

The Kennan Institute offers Short-Term Grants to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States), and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area. Policy-relevant research is preferred. Academic participants must either possess a doctoral degree or be doctoral candidates who have nearly completed their dissertations. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected.

Short-Term Grants provide a stipend of \$3,200 for 31 days. While KI cannot provide office space for Short-Term scholars, we do provide a carrel with a computer and internet access. Travel and accommodation expenses are not directly covered by this grant. There is no official application form for Short-Term Grants. The applicant is requested to submit a concise description (700-800 words) of his or her research project, C.V., a statement on preferred dates of residence in D.C., and two letters of recommendation specifically in support of the research to be conducted. Please note, the recommendation letters must be signed. Applicants should also state their citizenship status in their materials. Applications may be submitted via e-mail, fax or post. If sending a hard copy, the application must be in clear, dark type, printed on one side only, without staples.

Grant recipients are required to be in residence in D.C. for the duration of their grant. Four rounds of competitive selection for Short-Term Grants are held each year. The next closing date is December 1, 2012. Only U.S. citizens are currently eligible for Short-Term Grants.

The Short-Term Grant Program is supported by the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the former Soviet Union (Title VIII) of the U.S. Dept. of State and the Kennan Institute endowment.

For more information, please contact Lauren Crabtree: Email: Lauren.Crabtree@wilsoncenter.org; Phone: (202) 691-4274; Fax: (202) 691-4247; or, please see our website at www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan. Please send all application materials to: Lauren Crabtree, Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004-3027.

CFP: RUSSIA AND CHINA: THE ARCHITECTS OF A
NEW GLOBAL ORDER?

April 10, 2013, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

China's military, economic, and political rise and Russia's comeback in regional and global affairs have become, arguably, the most important geopolitical realignments of the last two decades. Many envision that the strategic orientation, opportunities for cooperation, and possible future tensions between Moscow and Beijing could shift the balance of power in international relations and global problem solving. The reasons for the growing importance of Russia and China in global politics are manifold: their size, their military and nuclear potential, their economies, and, most importantly, global ambitions. What is less obvious is how collaborative or competitive the Sino-Russian relations will be and what the implications are for global and regional security, multi-literalism, U.S. foreign policy interests, among many other factors.

The combined area and international studies centers at the University of Kansas (East Asian; Russian, East European, and Eurasian; Global and International Studies) together with the Foreign Military Studies Office at Ft. Leavenworth invite 200-word proposals for papers in Social Sciences and Humanities that address the dynamics of relations between Russia and China and their place in the emerging world order, especially following the 2008 financial crisis. We seek papers focusing on a specific world area, country or countries, and/or issue area where the Russian and Chinese interests complement each other or collide.

The goal of the conference is to describe, examine, and understand how the dynamics of Sino-Russian relations affect or are likely to affect geographical and issue-areas of international relations, and the shifts that have been happening or are likely to happen in global politics. Please send your proposal by February 1, 2013 to: crees@ku.edu Put in the subject header of your email: April 10 conference proposal.

STANFORD POST-SOVIET POST

Earlier this year, Stanford University's CREEES launched a web publication meant to connect academic research on current issues in Eurasia with broader, non-academic audiences. It has since been re-configured, and as of the beginning of December, the CREEES website is back in business. <http://postsovietpost.stanford.edu>



**4th Annual Studium
Carpatho-Ruthenorum
International
Summer School**

www.carpathorusynsociety.org



The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center and the Institute for Rusyn Language and Culture at Prešov University (Slovakia), are pleased to announce the 4th annual Studium Carpatho-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture, June 9-30, 2013. The Studium offers a unique experience to Slavists interested in exploring the history, culture, and language of an East Slavic people located on the border between East and West Slavic linguistic and cultural worlds. Faculty from Prešov University, the University of Toronto, and The Evergreen State College will engage participants in a study of language, Carpatho-Rusyn history and folklore, with parallel instruction in English and Rusyn.

Participants will enjoy pysanky and folksong workshops, excursions to Carpathian wooden churches, museums, folk festivals, an authentic village wedding, and a day trip to Uzhhorod.

Information & Application: email Prof. Patricia Krafcik at krafcikp@evergreen.edu or visit www.carpathorusynsociety.org
Deadline: March 1, 2013

[NewsNet](#) features a limited number of advertisements from organizations presenting scholarly publications, products, services, or opportunities of interest to those in the Russian, Eurasian, and Central European fields.

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Institutional Members receive: one subscription each to Slavic Review and NewsNet; a 10% discount on mailing labels of ASEES members; representation on the Council of Member Institutions; the opportunity to include program news and announcements in the "Institutional Members" section of NewsNet and ASEES website; a link on the ASEES List of Member Institutions page and a listing in the searchable organization directory on ASEES members site.

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In 2012, Slavic Review joined JSTOR's Current Scholarship Program. All past and current issues of Slavic Review are available online at JSTOR. If your institution does not already subscribe to a JSTOR package that includes Slavic Review, check this box to receive Slavic Review access through ASEES:

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Affiliate Member News

CFP: 14th ANNUAL CZECH STUDIES WORKSHOP

The Fourteenth Annual Czech Studies Workshop, which will be held at Columbia University on April 26-27, 2013, welcomes proposals for papers on Czech topics, broadly defined, in all disciplines. Slovak topics will also be considered.

In the past, our interdisciplinary conference has drawn participants from colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Areas of interest have included: anthropology, architecture, art, economics, education, film, geography, history, Jewish studies, literature, music, philosophy, politics, religion, and theater. Work in progress is appropriate for our workshop format. Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are especially encouraged to participate. Limited funding is available to reimburse participants' travel costs.

To submit a proposal, send an abstract of approximately 450 words and your CV to: czechstudies2013@yahoo.com. Include your name, full address, institutional affiliation, daytime telephone and e-mail address. Alternatively, mail a hard copy of your abstract and personal data to: Chris Harwood, Slavic Dept - Columbia University, 708 Hamilton Hall - MC 2839, 1130 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10027
Deadline: January 11, 2013. For more information, contact Chris Harwood at cwh4@columbia.edu

CFP: 2013 MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE

The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES) are proud to announce the 2013 Midwest Slavic Conference, to be held at OSU April 5 - April 7, 2013.

Conference organizers invite proposals for panels or individual papers addressing all disciplines related to Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. The conference will open with a keynote address by Brian Porter-Szűcs (U of Michigan) and a reception on April 5th, followed by two days of panels. Saturday, April 6th will feature a luncheon lecture by Irene Delic (Ohio State U).

If you would like to participate, please send a one-paragraph abstract (in PDF format) and brief C.V. to csees@osu.edu by January 16, 2013. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit presentations. Limited funding will be available to subsidize student lodging.

Application Deadline: January 16

The Midwest Slavic Association would also like to announce Between Shots, a series of focused panels within the Midwest Slavic Conference dedicated to film and visual culture in this region. It highlights film and animation, photography & multimedia art, graphic narrative and graphic design. Each year Between Shots also offers a screening of a film from Central/Southeastern Europe, with a corresponding panel discussion. Selected panels will be sponsored by the OSU Polish Studies Initiative and other cooperating cultural foundations, therefore limited support for travel and lodging may be available to participants in these sessions. Anyone interested in participating in the Between Shots series should include that information in

the email with his/her abstract and C.V.

For more information please contact the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at OSU by phone (614) 292-8770 or by email at CSEES@osu.edu.

51ST ANNUAL MEETING OF SCSS

The 51st annual meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina from March 21-23, 2013. Sponsored by the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Elon University, and Wake Forest University, this conference will feature 30 panels covering all areas of Slavic studies including history, literature, politics, economics, film, and more. For details on local arrangements, please contact either Harold Goldberg at hgoldber@sewanee.edu or Jeff Jones at jwjones@uncg.edu. If you would like to submit a panel or paper proposal, contact Sharon Kowalsky before January 15 at sharon.kowalsky@tamuc.edu

2013 ANNUAL SOYUZ SYMPOSIUM

"Authoritarianism & Beyond? Lessons from Postsocialist Societies" Harriman Institute, Columbia U, NY, March 22-23

Authoritarianism has become the common denominator for political regimes of many contemporary postsocialist societies. Authoritarianism highlights strong presidential authority, lack of democratic succession of rule and insufficient public representation. Within this analytic, authoritarianism is the opposite of liberal democracy, deficient in terms of active civil society and critical public sphere, and plagued by state-led oppression and violence.

The scope of this symposium beyond the concerns of postsocialist societies and to explore analytical limits and possibilities of the term authoritarianism itself.

SOYUZ, the Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies, is an interdisciplinary forum for exchanging work based on field research in postsocialist countries, ranging from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. The Symposium has met annually since 1991 and offers an opportunity for scholars to interact in a more personal setting.

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

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Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), established in 1948, is a non-profit, 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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Subscription to NewsNet is \$28.00 for U.S. subscribers and \$44 for non-U.S. subscribers. Prices include shipping. Single copies are \$7.00 each. To subscribe or order back issues, contact Jonathon Swiderski. Back issues are available up to two years only. Periodicals postage paid at Pittsburgh, PA, and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: ASEEES, 203C Bellefield Hall, 315 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424.

Membership:

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

Submission of materials

Announcements submitted to all regular columns are published free of charge. NewsNet frequently publishes unsolicited material. All submissions should be e-mailed to: newsnet@pitt.edu

Deadlines for submissions (ads, articles, announcements)

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



University of Pittsburgh 2013 Intensive Language Programs

In Pittsburgh beginning June 3

6-week intensive programs:

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian – 3 levels
Bulgarian – Beginning
Czech – Beginning
Hungarian – Beginning
Polish – Beginning and Intermediate
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Turkish – Beginning
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Baltic Summer Language Institute (BALSSI)

Estonian – Beginning and Intermediate
Latvian – Beginning and Intermediate
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8-week Programs:

Russian – 4 levels

2013 Abroad Programs

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(5-6 weeks in Pittsburgh;
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Pitt-Moscow 5+5
(limited to 32 students – apply early)
Pitt-Sofia 6+4
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Advanced **Polish** in Krakow

4-week Add-on Abroad Programs:

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APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ABROAD PROGRAMS: MARCH 16, 2013

NEW in 2013!

Project GO* Russian Language Study for ROTC Students

Major scholarships for Beginning and Intermediate Russian at PITT and PITT-MOSCOW. Advanced course in 2014. All ROTC students are eligible to apply.

Generous scholarships available through SLI, CREES-FLAS., and BALSSI Institute. *Project GO at the University of Pittsburgh is funded by the US Department of Defense through the Institute of International Education. Scholarship application deadline: **March 15, 2013. Rolling admission for non-abroad programs.**

Contact Information:

Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures
1417 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-5906
email: Slavic@pitt.edu



Applications accepted beginning **January 1, 2011.**

For applications and more information, visit our web page at:
<http://www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli/>





SWSEEL
The Summer Language Workshop

Indiana University Summer Language Workshop

June 3 - July 26, 2013
Apply Now: www.indiana.edu/~swseel/
Priority Deadline: March 1, 2013

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Calendar

2013

- February 7-9.** The Melikian Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Arizona State University will host “Post-Atheism”: Religion, Society and Culture in Post-communist Eastern Europe and Eurasia, on the ASU campus. <http://melikian.asu.edu/events>
- February 14-17.** Havighurst Center for Russian & Post-Soviet Studies 12th Annual International Young Researchers Conference Orthodox Christianity in Russia and Eastern Europe: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. The Havighurst Center for Russian & Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, Harrison Hall, Room 116, Oxford, OH 45056, (513) 529-3303, havighurstcenter@muohio.edu
- February 28-March 3.** “Ready for Democracy? Religion and Political Culture in the Orthodox and Islamic Worlds” conference at Indiana U, Bloomington. Direct inquiries to Padraic Kenney, pjkenney@indiana.edu
- February 28-March 3.** Music and Power: Historical Problems and Perspectives in Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Miami U (Oxford, Ohio). Sponsored by the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, and the Dept. of Music, the School of Fine Arts, & the Jewish Arts & Culture Series (Posen Foundation) www.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter
- March 8-9.** The Assoc. for the Study of Eastern Christian History & Culture 5th biennial conference, Georgetown U, Washington DC.
- April 5-8.** British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies/International council for Central and East European Studies (BAS-EES/ICCEES) European Congress, Cambridge UK Full details are available at: <http://www.euroiccees2013.org/>
- June 1-June 3.** Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Conference, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. The theme of the 2013 Congress is “@the Edge”. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp/cas/conference.html>
- September 2-4.** UACES 43rd Annual Conference, Leeds, UK. The three-day event will be hosted by the School of Politics & International Studies at the University of Leeds. To find out more, visit www.uaces.org/leeds.
- October 2-5.** Inter-Asian Connections IV: Istanbul. This conference aims to effect a paradigm shift in the study of the Asian expanse, re-conceptualized as a dynamic and interconnected historical, geographical, and cultural formation stretching from the Middle East through Eurasia, South Asia and Southeast Asia, to East Asia. Organized by SSRC, Yale U, the National U of Singapore (NUS), the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS) and Koç U. <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/interasia-program/>.



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