

# NewsNet

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

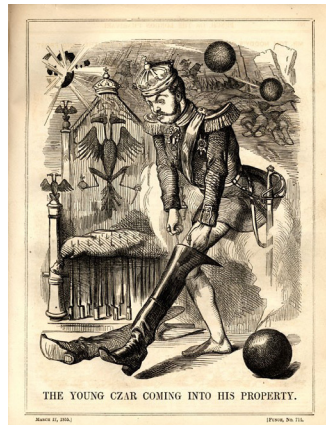
## On Truth, Politics and Authenticity: Culture in Beleaguered Times Catriona Helen Moncrieff Kelly, University of Oxford

*The following Presidential Address was given on November 21, 2015 at the 47th Annual ASEES Convention.*

It is a great honour to give this address, and also a significant responsibility. Thank you all for allowing me the floor, and for your generosity in electing me to a position in which I have learned an enormous amount, and benefited from great collegiality, both inside the Board and beyond.

Andy Byford's thought-provoking study of self-definition among Russian literary historians in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries includes an extensive treatment of ritual occasions such as inaugural lectures.<sup>1</sup> Presidential addresses evidently belong to this category also, and mine will take the usual form of reflections on the field and my own place in it. Alongside this, though, I will also give attention to the announced theme for the 2015 Convention, "Fact", which attracted well over 50 special-

ist panels of very high quality (and many more at which some or most papers directly or indirectly addressed the theme). It was also the subject of an excellent Presidential Plenary, and figured in our second Presidential Plenary on Ukraine, notably in the remarks by Andrew Wilson.



John Tenniel, *Punch*, March 17, 1855  
<https://ts.brandeis.edu/research/archives-speccoll/exhibits/crimeanwar/Large/CzarProperty.jpg>

So far as our particular association, and my role in it, goes, the start of my presidential year definitely felt like "beleaguered times". I was reminded, 160 years after the fact, of a cartoon by John Tenniel. First published on March 17, 1855, it shows the young Alexander II suddenly precipitated into a more exposed position than he had expected.

Of course, an elected figure serving a statutory term has scant resemblance to someone for whom governance is a life sentence, no matter how little they may relish it. Just so, the difference of opinion that broke out in ASEES earlier this year was not, fortu-

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nately, a two and a half-year war fought for little cause and with substantial loss of life; it was an important debate on points of principle, with fierceness only in the rhetoric. It has made our Association stronger, as examination of principles and procedures always does.

In fact, for me, the strongest autobiographical resonance in Tenniel's cartoon is a very different one. It was one of the most memorable images in the nineteenth-century history textbook that was used for the public examinations sat in the tenth year of high school, Ordinary Levels. A study of British school history books led by David Cannadine not long ago concluded dismissively that the textbooks of the day had few illustrations and was generally pretty stolid and dull.<sup>2</sup> That doesn't accord with my recollection; I can still remember several of the pictures in the book forty years on, and I recall the text as reasonably interesting too, not just for its word-pictures (London dockers demonstrating with fish-heads and so on), but for its markedly ironic attitude to British imperial adventures and gun-boat diplomacy.<sup>3</sup>

Be that as it may, compared with the often grotesque images of Russia in the Western press at the time, and in the Russian press of Westerners, Tenniel's drawing is a human and sympathetic glimpse of what was, at the time, the "other side". [Images: top and middle]

Tenniel's image of Bismarck, "Dropping the Pilot", [bottom image] showed equal and commendable restraint. Apparently, Bismarck himself was delighted with the image when Tenniel had him sent a presentation copy.

Tenniel was not just a journeyman cartoonist, but a considerable artist, and in both these pictures he captures effective fictions, mini-narratives: the young ruler who has just entered into his role, and the elder statesmen who is being released from his. Alternatively, one can see it as the typical start and end of a career in any modern society: from overwhelmed and



Punch, 1854



1850s caricature of the Allies, from the collection of A. M. Zaiionchkovskii. 1853-1856: the Events and Images of the Crimean War. Exhibition, Russian State Archive of Military History, State Archive of the Russian Federation, Federal Archive Agency, Moscow, 2006, [http://www.rusarchives.ru/evants/exhibitions/crimean\\_war\\_f/66.shtml](http://www.rusarchives.ru/evants/exhibitions/crimean_war_f/66.shtml).



John Tenniel, "Dropping the Pilot", Punch, March 29, 1890

isolated to serenely competent – yet no longer needed. Certainly, there is metaphorical universalism in the pictures: of course we don't think that Alexander II actually had cannon-balls ricocheting through his throne-room, or that Bismarck spent his retirement messing round in boats. But the details of the setting domesticate world leaders – awe, as well as hostility, is kept distant by familiarity.

My extraction of these images is not purely adventitious. Several analytical themes that have resonated in my academic work can be extrapolated from them. One is the importance of childhood experience, and the difficulty of getting at that experience, and the ways in which it echoes in adult subjectivity — or on the other hand, does not. Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, in *Truth*, suggests that all cultures lose the insights of childhood, but lose them in different ways.<sup>4</sup> One insight that modern academic culture has lost is a sense of any connection with childhood – which seems particularly strange when the perceptions and practices conveniently, if controversially, grouped as "identity" have been so extensively explored. Perhaps the explanation is that academic investigation is inseparable from education, and is preoccupied with hastening the maturation of thought and purifying it from any vestige of the unprofessional and half-baked.<sup>5</sup> To analyse human experience up to the age of 13-14 is, generally speaking, to be intellectually invisible, to be the participant in any general collection of articles who is dismissed in three lines by reviewers as addressing "children's experience". Childhood, despite the efforts of specialists such as Margaret Peacock, Marina Balina, Larisa Rudova, Olga Kucherenko, Andy Byford, or, outside our field, Aaron Moore, Colin Heywood, or Nicholas Stargardt, exists on the margins of scholarly investigation. It excites wider interest, if at all, only when children become the victims of state repression or natural calamity.<sup>6</sup> Perhaps because education is always about developing to a point

beyond childhood, academics, at the pinnacle of the educational profession, are especially keen to avoid appearing childish. The problem is that this can go with a general loss of wonder, a banishment of the ludic, that is at some level life-denying.

If “childhood” is problematic and definitely marginal in academic terms, far more popular as a subject of exploration, recently anyway, has been another theme that my first picture evokes: the role of memory (assumed memory) in constructing attitudes and reactions. The term “memory” groups together, in a loose alliance, *commemoration*, the material, textual, or ritual perpetuation of lost time, *recollection*, or the retrieval of the past in formal, public narratives such as professional history, journalism, guidebooks, and websites, and *remembrance* - the common currency of the past in everyday practices, in family traditions, and in conversation.<sup>7</sup> Memory of the third kind is, as Yosef Yerushalmi pointed out in *Zakhor*, much older than history, and such “remembrance” also presents a serious challenge to professional history in its slipperiness, its often emotional claims to authenticity, and on the basis of that to political leverage. There is an influential strand in modern Western discussion (Cathy Caruth, Dominic LaCapra, and others) which emphasises the personal damage done by trauma and the part played by frankness and retrieval in the project of recuperation.<sup>8</sup> But actually, in our part of the world, righteous indignation and the assertion of absolute claims to a certain, self-interested view of the past are far more common.

All of this makes me unhappy with the famous arguments voiced by Hannah Arendt in her 1967 essay “Truth and Politics”. The essay brilliantly captures the fragility yet resilience of what Arendt terms “fact”, or the surviving fragments of reality through passing time. Yet when Arendt quotes with approval Montaigne’s idea that falsity is protean while truth has “only one face”, she is, I think, falling into the same trap as those who insist on a monologic claim to the rightness of their own version of the past. Her example from Clemenceau – that no-one would ever say Belgium invaded Germany – applies neatly to an age when military invasions were carried out by entire armies, as a strongly ritualised performance of power. But what of situations where illegal border-crossing is alleged, yet cannot be effectively demonstrated? Or contestations over shared territory, of the kind that take place in cultures – including most modern ones – with high levels of mobility?

Academics, particularly historians, like to concentrate on cases where “myth” can readily be undermined

by “fact.” And there is good reason for this, as underlined some years ago by Roger Chartier: if all interpretations have equal value, there is no ground left upon which one may object to unscrupulous politicians. (Indeed, the argument of multiple interpretation has been extensively used by the Putin-era Russian press, for instance.) The problem is that a scrupulously argued, carefully weighed interpretation may also have limited political traction – so if political traction becomes the measure of our achievement, the result will be unavoidable stultification.

Added to that, the debunking of myth may seem more effective in a scholar’s eyes than it seems to a non-specialist observer. Ruth Harris’s book on the Dreyfus case is pertinent here: it shows how the coherent, rational case set out by Dreyfus’s supporters, based on the scrupulous use of fact, failed because of its very detachment.<sup>9</sup> In a brilliant 1967 essay on the cinema of Michelangelo Antonioni, the Russian writer Reed Grachev presents the resort to fact as a recourse of weakness – but a creative and suggestive weakness: “The pull to the factual in twentieth-century arts is the result of a loss of confidence in the plausibility of life and a desire to use the newly retrieved facts to challenge the old criteria.”<sup>10</sup> Whether we agree with this assessment or not, the emphasis that the retrieval of fact is both difficult and radical offers a more creative platform for cultural engagement than the assumption that it is always others who distort reality, and we who expose their fictions.

This does not mean accepting any old nonsense as true; as Isaiah Berlin pointed out long ago, there is a crucial difference between absolute relativism (a critical stance towards all moral and social norms) and pluralism, or the recognition of legitimate difference.<sup>11</sup> But it does mean applying the mind to a careful and considered analysis of phenomena that are uncomfortable, difficult, and even foolish. For several decades, “postmodernism” has been used, rather lazily, as a term for an anything-goes preoccupation with narrative and rhetoric. But exploration of *how* authoritative fictions function is just as important as demonstrating *that* they distort reality – indeed, one might say, more important, since intelligent journalism and internet comment can be relied on for swift factual corrections. Take these two images from the recent Ukrainian crisis. [Images are on page 4].

Both the pictures illustrate stories that were quickly discredited. There was no pregnant woman in the burning building in Odessa; personal items were not removed by members of the Donetsk militia from the field where MH17 met its dismal end. But both had instant impact,

and a long afterlife. Of course, we can simply say that people believe what they want to believe, that truth is the first casualty of war, or blame it on the Internet as an instrument of mass credulity. But none of these explanations seem complete or even particularly interesting. Why *these* images?

The furtive, intimate, hurried nature of the “event Instagram” is part of it: these pictures look like the small slices of reality one is used to seeing, the genre itself reinforcing photography’s traditional link with something that has “actually happened”, according to the classic function of photography as discussed by John Berger and Susan Sontag among others. Tennial shows us the power of one kind of fiction, of an artefact that doesn’t conceal its imaginative (its imaginary) status; the photographs demonstrate the power of an artefact that pretends simply to represent the world as it is.

Yet the photographs are not primarily documentary in force. Their blurry facture may suggest they are artless representations, but that very effect is the result of considerable work – and work that Adobe Photoshop has now made evident to, as well as realisable by, anyone. Photographs need to be processed, in the modern eye, to make them real, yet they need also to seem spontaneous – there is the paradox. These two images are perfect examples of that necessary contradiction. Added to that they act as moral mini-narratives, capturing, in one shot, people so wicked that they will slaughter a pregnant woman, or comb through the belongings of the dead for self-enrichment. They pillory those represented, while attributing to the viewer a very different set of morals. They are not so different in this from the traditional images of the blood libel, which attribute to a social “other” the capacity to do unspeakable acts – while actually representing behaviour that is common enough in the culture that makes the representation. They carry a charge that it is difficult to counter: the charge of *emotional* truth,

but their generalisations confuse the normative and the descriptive. “This should not happen” becomes “This does not happen – among us.” If soberly studied, both pictures raise pressing questions about how they were made. Who was privy to this scene? Who arrived just as a heavily pregnant woman expired, apparently without traces of blood, and managed, defying the laws of gravity, not to slip to the floor? Who was able to capture the gloating militia man as he rifled through other people’s property? Who was this trusted person who then betrayed omertà by releasing the picture to the world? The very fact that these pictures stretch ordinary reality makes them powerful – they have the omniscience of an abstract force, or perhaps even a divinity: the eye of justice, conscience, or the Lord God.

It is hard, if not impossible, to find a vulnerable place in such narratives: saying that “this did not happen” produces the response “things like this did happen” (or the accusation that one is “defending” morally repugnant behaviour). Exclamations about the stupidity of someone who might be taken in are still more problematic, as the person challenged then has a double stake in defending what they initially saw as plausible. Yes, there are many reasons for the proliferation of dubious images on the internet – the medium’s appetite for news and sensation; the slump in the political, economic, and cultural capital of investigative journalism; the shift from words to pictures in response to current events. But the material itself needs to be taken seriously, and we need to think our way into the minds of those who find it urgently engaging. Unlike real works of art, these fictions have no perceived value beyond their transmission of the values of those who created them. But they are not straightforward, and neither should our response to them be.

I am not proposing here a culturalist argument, whereby the function of analysing different languages and cultures is to crack an obscure hermeneutic code (as in Winston Churchill’s (in)famous description



“Murdered pregnant woman’ defies the laws of gravity



A story about looting of wedding rings, toys, and telephones that was widely reported in the Western media

of Russia, “a riddle wrapped up in an enigma”). Rather, studying different languages and cultures provides a sense both of universality, of understanding *without* shared background and (geographical or mental) territory, and a respect for different viewpoint. The hardest thing about writing academic work in other languages is not grammar or vocabulary, but the fact that arguments are structured and expressed in different ways, and these means of expression bear directly upon the acquisition of authority by the person who does the writing. Institutional power is often not translatable across other cultures either: anyone who has run an international project will know that this can be a bruising experience, with much argument about values and strategies. But to lose the sense that you are automatically entitled to a hearing can be revealing as well as humbling. It is a source of strength, in the end, too, once you finally overcome obstacles and make your point, but realize you can only do this with due attention to perspectives that you did not originally have.

Here I am echoing Stephen Hanson’s eloquent case, in his Presidential Address last year, for the importance of regional studies. But it is one particular aspect of regional studies that I have in mind. The centrality of culture to the understanding of politics used to be taken for granted back in Cold War days. Now humanities programs are under threat, both in the US and elsewhere, as practically useless. Yet the tight links between culture and politics have not gone away. Indeed, there has been an upsurge of representations that precisely insist on the connection. For instance, the freelance cartoonist Dave Granlund’s response to the latest Crimean War [top image] is entirely in the spirit of visual gags from 160 years ago [bottom image].

This might seem like a knowing in-joke on the modern cartoonist’s part, a self-conscious, smirking citation. But the assumptions of barbarism lie deep. Take this story

from immediately after the MH17 was downed over Donbass:

*Putin killed my son, says distraught dad*

July 19 2014 at 04:50pm  
By Daily Mail

London - The distraught father of a brilliant maths student killed on Flight MH17 accused Vladimir Putin of his murder.

Simon Mayne’s son Richard, 20, was one of ten Britons on the Malaysia Airlines jet downed by a missile in eastern Ukraine.

Fighting back tears, Mr Mayne said he had little doubt the Russian president was responsible for the loss of 298 lives.

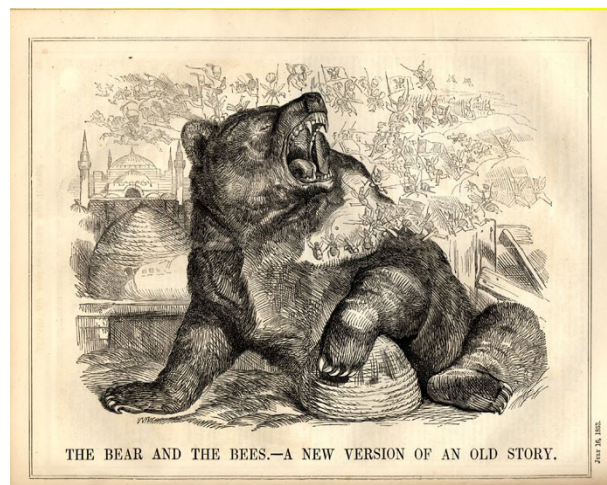
“If Putin wanted to speak out he would do so, he would sort them (the rebels) out,” said the 53-year-old teacher and company director.

“Everyone knows that what is going on out there is Russian-sponsored. This is a man who rides bare-chested on a horse because he thinks people will admire him, but he’s murdered my son essentially.”

This was one of many comparable stories in the UK press the day after the MH17 tragedy. My reaction as I entered the paper-shop was nausea. Not for a minute would I wish to belittle the father’s distress, but responsible journalism should not frame a story round a desperate person’s incoherent, ill-expressed outburst of rage (“he’s murdered my son essentially”) and turn this into clickbait round the globe. Meanwhile, the Russian media displayed a comparably inadequate reaction: the father’s reaction was described by a Twitter user as “So primitive, just a propaganda,” as though “primitive” were an appropriate description of extreme grief and rage. Patriotic Russian newspapers ran allegations citing militia leader Igor’ Strelkov’s claim that the plane was full of long-dead, “putrid corpses”, when the names of those who died had already been released in Australia, a mere keyword or two away. Due legal process was enthusiastically abandoned on all sides.<sup>12</sup>



Freelance cartoonist widely syndicated in the US. By Dave Granlund, Politicalcartoons.com - 3/3/2014 12:00:00 AM <http://www.politicalcartoons.com/cartoon/f49ac173-56e4-419c-98b1-c713898e8a9d.html>



Punch, July 6, 1853

The solution to this dreadful entanglement lies partly in restraint – from politicians and the press. But we, as experts, can also help. Where conflict is concerned, ignorance is most definitely not bliss. In societies where international contact is shallow-rooted and poorly informed, misunderstanding and prejudice proliferate. On the other hand, a proper grasp of language and culture help us better to understand “us” as well as “them” – our fears, our poorly rooted certainties, our unconscious arrogance. The ingrained association, in modern culture, of “the West” with civilized values creates a fertile territory for unreflective self-assertion on the part of those who inhabit the geographical territory fancifully seen as the home of ideals such as freedom and democracy. But whether we like it or not, we live in a global world, where the old binary certainties of “capitalism versus Communism” are long gone. We cannot get by on disinterred fragments of the nineteenth-century “Great Game” either, such as the automatic expectation that sovereign states will recognize their “natural” role as “buffers” or parts of an inalienable “sphere of influence”. In the push towards more sophisticated thinking, we, as experts in the region, have a central role: not just in offering informed commentary on all the areas of our subject that may be of contemporary relevance, but through insisting that all the voices in the debate are heard and properly understood – even if we do not, and should not, lend them our own authority. I am not just pleading for dialogue here; I am insisting on the absolute need for mutual understanding and conciliation. I am proud to say that we seem to have found a way toward that in our own Association over the course of the last year.

*Catriona Kelly is Professor of Russian at University of Oxford (UK). Many thanks to The Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK and the John Fell Fund, University of Oxford, who provided support for study leave and travel during Professor Kelly’s term as ASEES Board President.*

(Endnotes)

1 Andy Byford, *Literary Scholarship in Late Imperial Russia: Rituals of Academic Institutionalization* (London: Legenda, 2007).

2 “The publication of text books for the school history market expanded significantly in the 1970s and 80s as school budgets for materials grew. This meant publishers could continue to cater for the traditional O level courses [i.e. exams sat by the “academically gifted” in year 10-11 of high school] with pages of blocked text unrelieved by more than a few black and white cartoons or maps, whilst also developing more graphically-based books for the CSE pupil [comparable exams for the “less gifted”], such as the *History Alive* series by Peter Moss, which used line diagrams and cartoons to depict historical events.” Nicola Sheldon, “From New History to the GCSE, 1960s-1988” (2011), <<http://www.history.ac.uk/history-in-education/project-papers/school-history.html>>, p. 40. An abbreviated version of the text also appears in David Cannadine, Jenny Keating, and

Nicola Sheldon, *The Right Kind of History: Teaching the Past in Twentieth-Century England* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). There is a vast literature on history teaching, including government papers and journalism as well as academic discussions by historians and educationalists. Three particularly useful studies are William E. Marsden, *The School Textbook: Geography, History, and Social Studies* (London: Woburn Press, 2001); Jason Nicholls (ed.), *School History Textbooks across Cultures: International Debates and Perspectives* (Didcot, Oxon: Symposium Books, 2006), and *History on Trial: Culture Wars and the Teaching of the Past* (Gary B. Nash, Charlotte Crabtree, and Ross E. Dunn) (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997). See also the website of the European history teachers’ association, <<http://euroclio.eu>>.

3 I haven’t been able to trace the book concerned, only to establish that it wasn’t such widely-used publications as the Longman history series, or Arnold, but may have been a volume from the Blandford history series.

4 Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Truth: A History and Guide for the Perplexed* (New York: Martin Dunne, 1997).

5 As William Marsden has pointed out (*The School Textbook*, p. 1), the history of education has also been at best marginal in the scholarly world, generating, in turn, a “a thought chasm between elite definitions of what is deemed to be educationally appropriate, and the views of practising teachers”.

6 Just try reading the index of any general history of Russia, which will include, for example, “abandoned children”, “young offenders” etc., also the subject of detailed specialized studies.

7 To name only three manifestations among many possible others, including reconstruction or pastiche, re-enactment, restoration, and so on.

8 Among interesting studies of Russian recent history in this vein are those by Alexander Etkind, Polly Jones, Dina Khapaeva, and Serguei Oushakine.

9 *The Man on Devil’s Island: Alfred Dreyfus and the Affair that Divided France* (London: Allen Lane, 2010).

10 Reed [Rid] Grachev, “M. Antonioni: Fil’m ‘Krik’”, *Sochineniia* (St Petersburg: Zhurnal “Zvezda”, 2012), p. 612.

11 See “Alleged Relativism in Eighteenth-Century European Thought”, in *The Crooked Timber of Humanity* (London: John Murray, 1990), pp. 70-90.

12 By contrast, the tragedy on October 31, 2015, when the remains of a Russian airliner were found destroyed in the Sinai area, were reported without the immediate assignation of blame, which may be less to do with uncertainty about the possible causes than with the difficulty of gaining political traction by naming a possible antagonist. The November 24, 2015 downing of a Russian warplane by Turkey, however, generated immediate and vituperative exchanges by the two parties.



# 2015 Executive Director's Report

## Lynda Park

2015 was a challenging but ultimately fruitful year for AS-EEES. Having concluded our 18-month strategic plan in 2014, we launched new programs to benefit our members, such as the Convention Opportunity Travel Grant, Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship, and First Book Subvention programs. We shepherded a major study on the state of Russian studies in US higher education, sponsored by Carnegie Corporation of New York. We held a dynamic, well-attended annual convention in Philadelphia, PA. Finally, we worked diligently to advocate for support of our field.

**Membership** Our 2015 membership numbers are the following: 55 institutional members, including 14 premium (2 new) and 41 regular members; 3,029 individual members, including 589 student members (19.4%), 276 affiliate members (9.1%), and 130 regional members at reduced fee (4.3%). We had 797 international members (26.3%) from 47 countries, including 136 from the UK, 132 from Canada, 70 from Germany, and 237 from countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including 95 from Russia. We offered two-year memberships for the first time in 2015 – 377 chose to sign up for two years (12.7%). We also re-launched the lifetime-membership program with 12 members electing to become lifetime members. Please see the membership chart for trends in individual membership over the last decade.

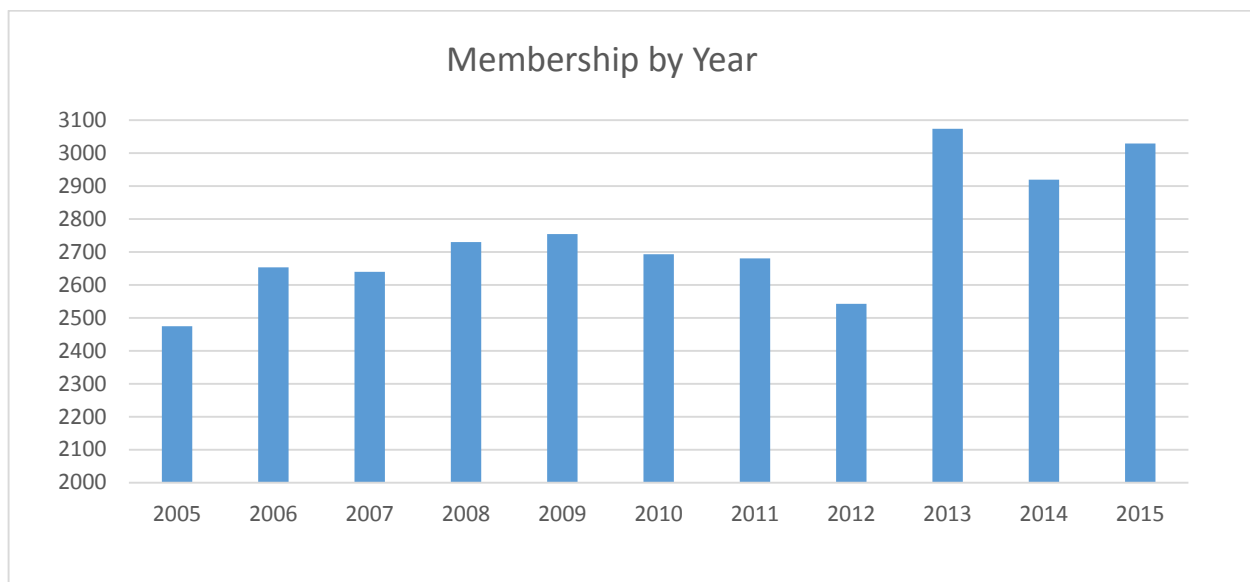
**Convention** The 47th Annual Convention was held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown on Nov. 19-22, 2015. The Convention was well-attended, even surpassing the 2013 Boston Convention attendance. We had 2287 registrations: 2075 members (575 international), 212 non-members (53 international); 461 students (394 members; 99 interna-

tional), 355 first-time attendees. Participants represented 47 countries, with the largest non-US contingents from the UK (105), Canada (97), and Russia (93). We had 2412 attendees, including the exhibitors. We had 60 exhibit booths by 60 companies/organizations in the Exhibit Hall and 13 sponsors at various levels. We thank the sponsors and the exhibitors.

The program included 445 panels, 136 roundtables, 38 meetings, and two Presidential Plenaries: one on the convention theme, “Fact, Fiction, Fabrication,” with Bruce Grant, Jochen Hellbeck, Irina Prokhorova, and Katherine Reischl as speakers; and the second plenary on Ukraine with Mark Kramer, Serhii Plokhii, Angela Stent, and Andrew Wilson presenting. AS-EEES President Catriona Kelly gave her Presidential Address on “On Truth, Politics and Authenticity: Culture in Beleaguered Times.” We thank the Program Committee, especially the chair Lisa Kirschenbaum (West Chester U) and the associate chairs Melissa Chakars (St. Joseph’s U) and Melissa Feinberg (Rutgers U), for their hard work.

The 48th Convention will be held at the Washington DC Marriott Wardman Park on Nov. 17-20, 2016, with Steven Barnes (George Mason U) serving as the Program Committee Chair. We are instituting some changes starting in 2016: we restructured the session categories; the deadline for all submissions is Feb. 15; and a new rule stipulates that 2015 individual paper submitters whose papers were accepted will not be able to submit individual papers in 2016. They are encouraged to organize panels. We also plan to add new informal networking activities.

**Convention Travel Grants** Having launched the new Convention Opportunity Travel Grant this year, we now offer



three travel grants for our members to present their research at the annual convention. In 2015 we disbursed \$21,725 by awarding 44 grants: 20 Davis Graduate Student Travel Grants to students at 18 institutions from 7 countries (including the US); 13 Regional Scholar Travel Grants to scholars from 7 countries in the region; and 11 Convention Opportunity Travel Grants to support low-income non-student members.

**2016 ASEEEES-MAG Summer Convention** ASEEEES and the International Association for the Humanities (MAG) will hold a joint summer convention at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, on June 26-28, 2016. The deadline to submit proposals is Jan. 15. The program committee has decided to allow four languages for presentations – English, Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian – the four languages used by MAG. More information can be found on the [summer convention website](#). We plan to organize the 2018 summer convention in St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Slavic Review** Under the editorship of Harriet Murav (U Illinois), *Slavic Review* continues to be the leading journal in the field publishing high-quality articles in diverse disciplines. The journal continues to receive around 200 submissions a year and publish on average 24 articles a year. See Harriet's report in the [October issue](#) of *NewsNet*. We are delighted to report that she has agreed to continue serving as the SR editor for another term (2016-2021) and U of Illinois has agreed to provide support, for which we are most thankful. We also are in the process of reviewing the journal's publishing structure starting 2017. *Slavic Review* has been in partnership with JSTOR's Current Scholarship Program since 2012, which has not produced optimal results.

**NewsNet** Based on the member survey, which indicated that many read the NewsNet online, and as a cost-saving measure, the Board approved the plan to disseminate two of the five issues as digital-only issues. Starting in 2016, the March and June issues will be available only online. The June issue has been online-only since 2012. We will continue to send print copies to members who request them.

**CCNY-Sponsored Study** In January 2015 we received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to conduct a study on the state of Russian studies at US universities. Ted Gerber (U Wisconsin) served as the main PI, with Nancy Condee (U Pittsburgh), Valerie Sperling (Clark U), Mark Steinberg (U Illinois) and myself serving on the advisory committee. The report was presented to CCNY, at a strategy meeting at the Kennan Institute on June 5, and at the ASEEEES Convention in Philadelphia. You can read the report summary in the [August issue](#) of *NewsNet* and the [full report](#). One outcome of the study was the recognition of the importance of interdisciplinary MA programs in REEES and the need to further professionalize the training of MA students to work in non-academic sectors. We are in the process of forming a task force on MA programs.

**Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship Program** After much turmoil and controversy leading to a [special Board meeting](#) on May 11, we were thankful that the KAT Charitable Foundation agreed to re-offer the gift to establish the [Stephen F. Cohen-Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship](#) program in Russian historical studies. The three-year pilot program will award up to six \$22,000 dissertation research fellowships to US doctoral students each year to conduct research in Russia. The application deadline was Dec. 11, 2015; the fellows will be announced in April 2016.

**First Book Subvention Program** The First Book Subvention Program to support publication of books by first-time authors was launched in the summer with the announcement of two application deadlines each year. After review of the first set of proposals in the fall, the Committee selected three books to be awarded the subvention: *Russian Realisms: Literature and Painting, 1840-1890* by Molly Brunson (Yale U) on Northern Illinois University Press; *Violence as a Generative Force* by Max Bergholz (Concordia U) on Cornell University Press; and *Threads of Empire: Loyalty and Tsarist Authority in Bashkiria, 1552-1917* by Charles Steinwedel (Northeastern Illinois U) on Indiana University Press. The next deadline is February 1, 2016.

**ASEEEES Commons** In spring 2015, the Modern Language Association invited ASEEEES along with two other societies to participate in a pilot project to create the new Humanities Commons - an integrated online discussion and collaboration platform. With a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we are working with MLA to build the ASEEEES Commons (based on the [MLA Commons](#) model) that will be an integrated part of the Humanities Commons. We hope to launch the site at the 2016 Convention in Washington, DC.

**Development/Investment** ASEEEES's general investment fund, currently managed by TIFF, was valued at \$2,533,806 at the end of fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). ASEEEES received \$25,291 in contributions during the fiscal year; \$23,871 were invested in the General Investment Fund.

The Investment Sub-committee of the Executive Committee drafted a new Investment Policy Statement, which was approved by the Board in November 2015. The Subcommittee will be reviewing the Association's investment strategy in the coming year.

**Advocacy: Title VIII and Title VI** The US State Department announced in April 2015 a new competition for Title VIII with an appropriation of \$1.5 million from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget. While less than half of the FY 2012 appropriations, we were delighted to see the program restored. The competition resulted in four grantees: The American Councils for International Education, Arizona State U CLI, Indiana U SWSEEL, and the Woodrow Wilson Center Kennan Institute. We are cautiously hopeful that the Title VIII program, possibly back at \$3 million, will continue next



year.

The Title VI/Fulbright-Hays program was threatened with major cuts proposed by the Senate in late summer. We took part in a petition campaign against the cut. For the fiscal year 2016 budget we are advocating that Congress maintain the 2015 funding level for the program. The next big issue is the Congressional reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which includes the Title VI reauthorization. As part of the advocacy effort on reauthorization, Stephen Hanson, ASEEEES Immediate Past President, spoke about the importance of the Title VI-funded National Resource Centers at a Hill briefing in Washington, DC, on September 21.

**Board Election/Incoming Members** The 2015 annual election for the Board of Directors was held from June-Sept, and the results were the following: Anna Grzymala-Busse (U of Michigan) elected vice-president/ president-elect for 2016; Adrienne Edgar (UC Santa Barbara) and Eric Naiman (UC Berkeley) elected members-at-large for 2016-2018; and Michael Połczyński (Georgetown U) elected graduate student representative for 2016-2017. We sent out 2,837 ballots, and 1,007 voted (37.7% participation). The other incoming Board members in 2016 are: Jessica Graybill (Colgate U), AAG representative; Tim Langen (U of Missouri), AATSEEL representative; and David Patton (American Councils for International Education and NCEEER), representative of the Council of Institutional Members.

**Governance/Committees** Following the priorities outlined in the [2014 strategic plan](#), we have been working to ensure that ASEEEES is using the best practices in non-profit association governance. We have established or revised various policies and are working to align the committee structure to the strategic priorities. We are relaunching the long dormant Membership Committee not only to help grow the membership but to make sure that the Association provides the kind of benefits that are useful to members. We changed the name of the Advocacy Committee to the Public Advocacy and Outreach Committee to better indicate its role not only advocating for funding in the field but also promoting the field to the general public.

I thank our members for their commitment to the Association. I especially thank the ASEEEES Board members for their tremendous dedication and work this year. The Association and our scholarly community benefit enormously from their efforts. I thank the staff at our main office and the *Slavic Review* editorial office for their hard work. I want to express my gratitude to Wendy Walker for her twenty years of service as the Convention Coordinator. Finally, I thank the University of Pittsburgh for hosting the ASEEEES main office and offer special thanks to Pitt's University Center for International Studies and the Center for Russian and East European Studies for their support.



**ASEEES 48th Annual Convention, November 17–20, 2016**  
**Marriott Wardman Park, Washington DC**  
<http://aseees.org/convention>

The conference theme “Global Conversations” invites papers and panels rooted in deep local or regional knowledge while investigating what our region brings to global study, and what we can learn from those who study other places and other cultures.

**Feb 15**    **Deadline - All 2016 Convention paper proposals & meeting requests**

**Late April**    **First acceptance notification to individual paper submitters & panel organizers**

**Late April**    **Start of Convention Pre-registration**

**April 30**    **Upon notification of panel acceptance, all participants must become ASEEEES members**

**May 22**    **Davis Graduate Student Travel Grant applications due**

**June 1**    **Regional Scholar and Convention Opportunity Travel Grant applications due**

**Late June**    **Preliminary Convention program available on the ASEEEES website**



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- **EURASIAN REGIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM (ERLP)** ERLP provides highly-individualized language instruction, homestays, cultural activities, and expert logistical support to participants studying less commonly taught languages in 10 Eurasian countries.
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- **SUMMER RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS PROGRAM** Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education Fulbright-Hays, the six-week program provides pre- and in-service Russian instructors the opportunity to study Russian language, culture, and pedagogy at the Russian State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg.

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The Summer 2016 deadline is February 15, 2016.  
Find complete program information and applications at:

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



## Periodical Studies: Why and How to Re-read East European Journals

Natalia Ermolaev and Philip Gleissner (Princeton U)

Nearly a decade ago, Sean Latham and Robert Scholes ambitiously proclaimed “The Rise of Periodical Studies” in the *PMLA*, the premier publication that institutionalizes new trends in literary and cultural studies. Latham and Scholes proposed a seemingly radical reorientation in the philological scholarship of magazines and journals: treat them as “autonomous objects of study” rather than just as “containers of discrete bits of information.”<sup>1</sup> And while this approach has provoked significant, if at times polemical response in English and American Studies, the Slavic and East European fields have remained surprisingly silent. Is the notion of periodical studies as a discrete field applicable to our work? Does it differ from the ways Slavists have been analyzing journals for decades? At “Decoding the Periodical,” a workshop at Princeton University in March 2015,<sup>2</sup> we explored these questions with participants from fields of history, art history, and literary studies. Our conclusion was an emphatic yes, that periodical studies does offer Slavic new methodological avenues that reveal the dynamism of our specific periodical culture.

The call to rethink how we read Russian and East European periodical literature is timely. For over two centuries, not only literary, but political, technological, and economic forces kept the thick journal in a position of influence over readers, critics, and scholars. While in recent decades, Slavists following the cultural turn in the humanities and social sciences have broadened their scope to include new material, their methods for engaging periodicals have largely gone unchanged. Considering the revolution in the production, distribution, and consumption of periodical literature brought about by digital publishing platforms and today’s global marketplace, new critical approaches are all the more urgent. Periodical studies brings to “traditional” historical-literary analysis the practices of book history and media studies, which offer a new language for discussing the creation, dissemination, and reception of literature. As Jon Stone pointed out in his presentation at our workshop, Slavic periodical studies is in fact a project of negotiating two academic discourses: a more philologically-oriented Russian approach with an American one that has stronger focus on material culture and new media.

The workshop participants were asked to engage with this new methodological territory for their works-in-progress talks. They read a set of pre-circulated articles from periodical studies scholarship outside Slavic posted on our blog, SEEPS (Slavic, East European and

Eurasian Periodical Studies).<sup>3</sup> Attention to a magazine’s material and visual components – images, graphics, typography, page design, paper type – was particularly germane for scholars of the avant-garde. Meghan Forbes, for example, in her talk on Czech interwar magazines, demonstrated how a particular typographic aesthetic allowed the Devětsil group to transcend linguistic boundaries and impact the international discourse of modernism. Ksenia Nouril, who looked at early Soviet photography magazines, argued that nuanced strategies for laying out Alexander Rodchenko’s photos reveal how *Sovetskoe foto* – and early Stalinist culture more broadly – negotiated the legacy of modernism and formalism. Sarah Krive discussed how the juxtaposition of text and image was used in early Soviet journals to create verbal and visual caricatures of Silver Age poets, serving both entertainment and didactic purposes.

When approached as a cultural form and economic object, the journal reveals itself as a mediator between inclusivity and otherness, using various genre-specific affordances for attracting new audiences while maintaining a posture of exclusivity. Yelizaveta Raykhlina demonstrated this process at work in early 19th-century Russia, tracing the evolution of “middle-brow” culture through a rhetoric of producers, critics and consumers of journals *Severnaia pchela* and *Biblioteka dlia chteniia*. Later in the century, as Colleen Lucey pointed out, advancements in print technology allowed a proliferation of satirical journals and broadsheet weeklies that constructed spectatorship and visual pleasure through graphical representations of the social and sexual other, particularly prostitutes and courtesans. In interwar Czechoslovakia, as Karla Huebner showed, journals such as *Gentleman* could promote marginal social and sexual identities as a distinct ideal of a refined urban lifestyle.

Our discussion of periodicals across geographical and historical boundaries emphasized their core generic characteristics. Taking the periodical as an “autonomous objects of study” means exploring its unique traits such as periodicity, ephemerality, collective authorship, institutionalized readership, and continual and multiple print runs. Closely related are the concrete logistical challenges of conducting research on periodicals. It is barely feasible to read, absorb, and assess thousands of pages of one or multiple journals’ complete run. The “rise” of periodical studies has therefore been closely linked to the emergence of digital editions and the new methodologies of the digital humanities. Digital archives (such as the Princeton

Blue Mountain Project<sup>4</sup> and Brown/Tulsa's Modernist Journals Project<sup>5</sup>) not only provide access, they can enable novel kinds of readings through text mining, computational analysis and data visualization. Alex Moshkin's presentation exemplified this approach: his network graphs of four Israeli-Russian journals - *Dvoetochie*, *Zerkalo*, *22* and *Ierusalimskii Zhurnal* - demonstrated how several hundred authors in this community expressed geographic and linguistic affiliation compared to the magazine's aesthetic and ideological position. But, as keynote speaker and art historian Nick Sawicky pointed out, as we create a rich digital corpus of images, texts and datasets of Slavic and East European journals, we must also be conscious of how our interpretive maneuvers adjust in the digital environment. In his talk, "Avant-Garde Fissures in the Modern Czech Art Press: Traces in the Printed and the Digital," Sawicky discussed the radicalization of Czech modern art periodicals *Volné směry* and *Umělecký měsíčník*, and showed how contemporary understandings of this historical event are mediated by the multiple forms of access to the periodical as an object of study: as printed original; as transcribed, translated, and anthologized text; and increasingly as digital facsimile.

The proliferation of magazines, journals and newspapers in the last two centuries, and their continued evolution in the digital age, makes the methods of peri-

odical studies particularly attractive for evaluating and re-evaluating modern Russian and East European society and culture. Following the success of our first meeting, we plan to keep fostering this community through the SEEPS website, which will be updated with information about relevant events and publications. We invite all interested members of ASEEES to visit our website and to contact us with any questions or ideas for collaboration.

*Natalia Ermolaev is the Digital Humanities Project Manager at Princeton University; Philip Gleissner is a Ph.D candidate in Literature, with a focus on Russian and Czech literature and culture of the 20th century, at Princeton University.*

#### (Endnotes)

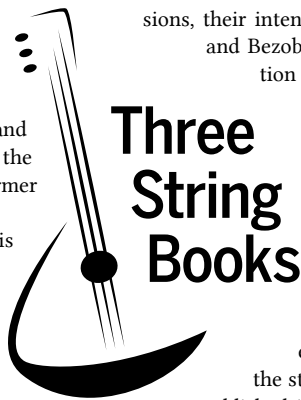
- 1 Latham, Sean, and Robert Scholes. "The Rise of Periodical Studies." *PMLA* 121, no. 2 (2006): 518.
- 2 For more information on the conference, including abstracts for the workshop presentations, see the SEEPS website: <https://seeeps.princeton.edu/>
- 3 See our website: <https://seeeps.princeton.edu>. A detailed bibliography can be found here: <https://seeeps.princeton.edu/sample-page/colloquium-readings/>
- 4 <http://bluemountain.princeton.edu/>
- 5 <http://modjournal.org/>

### Slavica Publishers announces:

Slavica Publishers is delighted to announce the launch of its new imprint, Three String Books, devoted to translations of literary works from Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and the other successor states of the former Soviet Union.

Our first offering is Boris Poplavsky's *Apollon Bezobrazov*, translated by John M. Kopper.

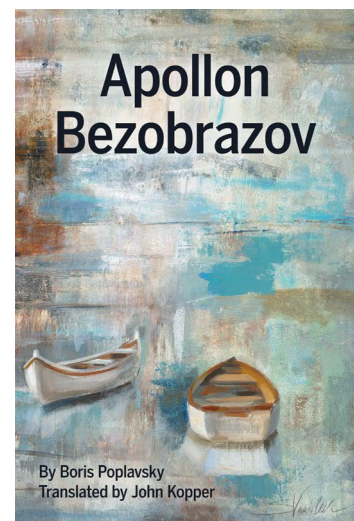
*Apollon Bezobrazov* is a novel by a "recovered Surrealist." Making an uncharacteristic detour into prose in the 1920s, the Russian émigré poet Boris Poplavsky presents a novel that both reveals and rebels against the Surrealist influence of prominent Parisian contemporaries like André Breton and Louis Aragon. The novel's eponymous hero embodies the figure of the urban hippie—the flâneur of French literature—while the narrator, a young Russian, falls under his spell. The story describes in colorful, poetic detail the hand-to-mouth existence of a small band of displaced Russians in Paris and Italy. It chronicles their poverty, their diver-



sions, their intensely played out love affairs, and Bezobrazov's gradual transformation in the eyes of his admiring followers. Abounding in allusions to Eastern religion, Western philosophy, and 19th-century Russian literature, the novel also features an experimental mixing of genres that echoes Joyce's *Ulysses*, while its use of extended metaphors reveals the stylistic impact of Proust. Not published in complete form in Russian until 1993, *Apollon Bezobrazov* significantly broadens our understanding of the literature of the interwar emigration.

John M. Kopper is Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College. He is the author of several articles on Poplavsky, and has published on Tolstoy, Gogol, Nabokov, and Bely.

Inquiries and translation proposals should be directed to Managing Editor Vicki Polansky, at [vpolansky@slavica.com](mailto:vpolansky@slavica.com). Three String editorial operations are overseen by the



Slavica editorial board, including Russell Valentino (Chair), George Fowler (Director, Slavica Publishers), Craig Cravens (Editor in Chief, Three String Books), Jacob Emery, and Joanna Nizynska.

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*ASEEEES is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; dues and optional contributions may be deductible—please consult a tax advisor.*

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Kathryn Davis Student Travel Grant Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Individual Type:  Student  Retired  [Neither]

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pre-18th Century  20th Century

18th Century  21st Century

19th Century

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## ASEEES CONGRATULATES AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS' 2015 PRIZE WINNERS

### 2015 AATSEEL Book Prizes

Best Book in Literary and Cultural Studies: Luba Golburt, *The First Epoch: The Eighteenth Century and the Russian Cultural Imagination* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2014)

Best Book in Literary Translation: Inga Abele, *High Tide* (University of Rochester, 2013), as translated by Kaija Straumanis

Best Book in Scholarly Translation: Vladimir Gilyarovskiy's *Moscow & Muscovites* (RIS, 2013), as translated by Brendan Kiernan

### Association for Women in Slavic Studies Awards

Outstanding Achievement Award: Sarah Phillips, Russian and East European Institute, Director, Indiana U at Bloomington

Mary Zirin Prize for Independent Scholars: Rosamund Bartlett and Dr. Ellen Elias-Bursac

Heldt Prize for Best Book in Slavic and East European Women's Studies: Valerie Sperling for *Sex, Politics, and Putin: Political Legitimacy in Russia* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Heldt Prize for Best Book by a Woman in Slavic and East European Studies: Luba Golbert for *The First Epoch: The Eighteenth Century and the Russian Cultural Imagination* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2014)

Heldt Prize for Best Article in Slavic and East European Women's Studies: Anika Walke, "Jewish Youth in the Minsk Ghetto: How Age and Gender Mattered," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 15.3 (Summer 2014): 535-62

Heldt Prize for Best Translation in Slavic/East European/Eurasian Women's Studies: Caroline Clark, Ksenia Golubovich, Stephanie Sandler for *Olga Sedakova, In Praise of Poetry* (Open Letter, 2014)

Graduate Research Prize: Margarita Safronova, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science, UC Santa Barbara

Graduate Essay Prize: Katarzyna Kaczmarek for "Russia, A Different Version of the International" from her dissertation: "The Politics of Representing the International: International Society and the Russian World," 2015

### Canadian Association of Slavists' Taylor and Francis Book Prize in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Alan Barenberg for *Gulag Town, Company Town: Forced Labor and its Legacy in Vorkuta* (Yale University Press, 2014)

**Czechoslovak Studies Association Winters Award:** Owen Johnson for Distinguished Contribution to Czechoslovak Studies.

### The Early Slavic Studies Association 2015 Book Prize

Julia Verkholtantsev for *The Slavic Letters of St. Jerome: The History of the Legend and Its Legacy, or, How the Translator of the Vulgate Became an Apostle of the Slavs* (Northern Illinois Press, 2014)

Honorable Mention: Valerie Kivelson for *Desperate Magic: The Moral Economy of Witchcraft in Seventeenth-century Russia* (Cornell University Press, 2013)

### Polish Studies Association's 2015 Aquila Polonica Prize for the best article in Polish Studies

Piotr Kosicki, "Masters in their Own Home or Defenders of the Human Person? Wojciech Korfanty, Antisemitism, and Polish Christian Democracy's Illiberal Human Rights Talk." *Modern Intellectual History* (June/July 2015)

Lisa Jakelski, "Pushing Boundaries: Mobility at the Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music," *East European Politics and Societies* 29, 1 (2015): 189-211

Agnieszka Pasięka, "Neighbors: About the Multiculturalization of the Polish Past." *East European Politics and Societies*, 28 (Feb 2014): 225-251

### The Society for Romanian Studies 2015 Book Prize

Sean Cotter, for *Literary Translation and the Idea of a Minor Romania* (University of Rochester Press, 2014)

Honorable Mention: Moshe Idel's *Mircea Eliade from Magic to Myth* (Peter Lang, 2013)



# 2016 ASEES Board of Directors & Committees

## 2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Padraic Kenney, President; Indiana U  
Anna Grzymala-Busse, President-Elect/Vice President; U of Michigan  
Catriona Kelly, Immediate Past President; U of Oxford (UK)  
Susan Linz, Treasurer, 2009-2017; Michigan State U  
Mary Neuburger, Member-at-large, 2015-2016; U of Texas, Austin  
Harriet Murav, Editor, Slavic Review; U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Lynda Park, Executive Director; U of Pittsburgh

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## 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## 2016 ASEES COMMITTEES

(Names in bold indicate new members for 2016; "Chair" in bold indicates new committee chair for 2016.)

### Nominating Committee

**Catriona Kelly**, U of Oxford (UK), **Chair**, 2016  
**John Randolph**, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2016  
**Ellen Rutten**, U of Amsterdam (Netherlands), 2016

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Olga Kagan, UCLA, Chair, 2014-2016  
Alla Nedashkivska, U of Alberta (Canada), 2014-2016  
**Tim Langen**, U of Missouri, 2016-2018 (*ex officio* as ATSEEL rep to ASEES Board)

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Ksenya Kiebusinski, U of Toronto (Canada), Chair, Subcommittee on Collection Development, 2014-2016  
Janice Pilch, Rutgers, Chair, Subcommittee on Copyright Issues, 2014-2016  
Margarita Nafpaktitis, UCLA, Chair, Subcommittee on Digital Projects, 2014-2016  
Kit Condill, U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Chair, Slavic & East European Materials Projects (Association of Research Libraries), 2015-2017  
Jon Giullian, U Kansas, CLIR webmaster, 2015-2017  
Nikolaos Chrissidis, Southern Connecticut State U, Faculty Rep, 2014-2016

### Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

Sharon Kowalsky, Texas A&M-Commerce, **Chair**, 2014-2017  
Choi Chatterjee, Cal State U, Los Angeles, 2015-2016 (*ex officio* as president of AWSS)  
Katya Hokanson, U of Oregon, 2014-2016  
**Natalie McCauley**, U of Michigan, 2016-2018 (graduate student rep)

### Communications Advisory Committee

**Karen Petrone**, U of Kentucky, **Chair**, 2016-2017  
Michael Biggins, U of Washington, 2015-2017  
Robert Hayden, U of Pittsburgh, 2015-2017  
**Olga Kagan**, UCLA, 2016  
Alisha Kirchoff, Indiana U, 2015-2017  
Colleen Lucey, U of Wisconsin, Madison, 2015-2016 (graduate student rep)  
**Alexander Pershai**, International Association for the Humanities / European Humanities U (Lithuania), 2016-2018

### Membership and Professional Development Committee

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**David Borgmeyer**, St. Louis U, 2016-2017  
**Ben Loring**, Georgetown U, 2016  
**Jennifer Wilson**, U of Pennsylvania, 2016-2018

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Susan Linz, Michigan State U, 2015-2017 (*ex officio* as Treasurer)

Dan Peris, Federated Investors, 2015-2017

#### **Committee on Mentoring**

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**Joshua Sanborn**, Lafayette College, 2016-2018

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Lynda Park, ASEEES (*ex officio*)

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**Laura Adams**, AAAS, 2016-2018

Cheryl Garner, US Department of State, 2015-2017

Dmitry Gorenburg, Harvard U, 2015-2017

#### **Public Advocacy and Outreach Committee**

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Henry Hale, George Washington U, 2014-2016

David Patton, American Councils/NCEEER, 2014-2016

Ariann Stern-Gottschalk, Indiana U, 2015-2017

Lynda Park, ASEEES (*ex officio*)

#### **Honors and Awards Committee**

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**Jan Kubik**, U College London (UK), 2016-2018

Denise Youngblood, U of Vermont, 2015-2017

#### **Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize Committee - done**

Mitchell Orenstein, Northeastern U, **Chair**, 2015-2016

Choi Chatterjee, Cal State U, Los Angeles, 2015-2016

**Nancy Condee**, U of Pittsburgh, 2016-2017

**Stephen Hutchings**, U of Manchester (UK), 2016-2017

#### **Davis Center Book Prize Committee**

Pauline Jones Luong, U of Michigan, **Chair**, 2014-2016

Connor O'Dwyer, U of Florida, 2015-2017

**Olga Shevchenko**, Williams College, 2016-2018

#### **USC Book Prize Committee**

Lilya Kaganovsky, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, **Chair**, 2014-2016

Galya Diment, U of Washington, 2015-2017

**Cristina Vatulescu**, New York U, 2016-2018

#### **Reginald Zelnik Book Prize Committee**

Michael Khodarkovsky, Loyola U (Chicago), **Chair**, 2014-2016

Glennys Young, U of Washington, 2015-2017

**Norman Naimark**, Stanford U, 2016-2018

#### **Marshall Shulman Book Prize Committee**

Kimberly Marten, Columbia U, **Chair**, 2014-2016

Alexander Cooley, Barnard College, 2015-2017

**Laura Henry**, Bowdoin College, 2016-2017

#### **Ed A Hewett Book Prize Committee**

Andrew Barnes, Kent State U, **Chair**, 2015-2017

Carol Leonard, U of Oxford (UK), 2014-2016

**Jessica Pisano**, The New School, 2016-2018

#### **Barbara Jelavich Book Prize Committee**

Emily Greble, CUNY, **Chair**, 2014-2016

**Laurence Cole**, U of Salzburg (Austria), 2016-2018

Paula Pickering, College of William and Mary, 2015-2017

#### **Kulczycki Book Prize Committee**

Tomasz Kamusella, U of St Andrews (UK), **Chair**, 2014-2016

**Joanna Nizynska**, Indiana U, 2016-2018

Nathan Wood, U of Kansas, 2015-2017

#### **W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize Committee**

**Heather Coleman**, U of Alberta (Canada), **Chair**, 2016

**Barbara Allen**, LaSalle U, 2016

**Russell Martin**, Westminster College, 2016

#### **Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee**

Elena Prokhorova, College of William and Mary, **Chair**, 2015-2017

Vasiliki Neofotistos, SUNY Buffalo, 2014-2016

**Victoria Smolkin-Rothrock**, Wesleyan U, 2016-2018

#### **Tucker/Cohen Dissertation Prize**

Michael David-Fox, Georgetown U, **Chair**, 2014-2016

**Andrew Jenks**, California State U, Long Beach, 2016-2018

Juliet Johnson, McGill U (Canada), 2015-2017

#### **ASEEES Dissertation Grant Committee**

Bruce Grant, New York U, **Chair**, 2015-2016

Anne Gorsuch, U of British Columbia (Canada), 2015-2017

Jessie Labov, Ohio State U, 2015-2017

#### **Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship Selection Panel**

Alexander Rabinowitch, Indiana U, **Chair**, 2015-June 2016

Katerina Clark, Yale U, 2015-June 2016

Richard Wortman, Columbia U, 2015- June 2016

#### **Convention Opportunity Travel Grant Committee**

Megan Dixon, College of Idaho, **Chair**, 2015-2016

Joshua First, U of Mississippi, 2015-2017

Polly Jones, U of Oxford (UK), 2015-2017

#### **Davis Student Travel Grant Committee**

Alyssa DeBlasio, Dickinson College, **Chair**, 2014-2016

Johanna Bockman, George Mason U, 2014-2016

**David Fisher**, U of Texas at Brownsville, 2016-2018

#### **First Book Subvention Committee**

Douglas Rogers, Yale U, **Chair**, 2014-2016

William Risch, Georgia College, 2015-2016

Jane Sharp, Rutgers, The State U of New Jersey, 2015-2017

John Ackerman, Cornell U Press, 2015-17 (non-voting member)

#### **Regional Scholar Travel Grant Committee**

Eliot Borenstein, New York U, **Chair**, 2015-2016

Carol Leff, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015-2017

**Madeleine Reeves**, U of Manchester (UK), 2016-2018



## Treasures from the Pacific Northwest: Academic Library Collections Shaped by Time and Location Report by ASEES Committee on Libraries and Information Resources

The library collections of the Pacific Coast Slavic and East European Consortium (PACSLAV)—Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Oregon, and University of Washington—reflect the region's rich culture and history. They document, for example, the Russian settlements of Alaska and the first historic Russian fortress of Fort Ross in California; the Old Believers' livelihood in Woodburn, Oregon; and the Russian, East European, and Baltic communities "melting into" American society while at the same time preserving their cultural values and heritage.

The collections developed as Slavic studies and language courses were introduced at these universities. In 1901, Professors G. Noyes and Thomas Bacon began offering courses in Slavic languages and history at the University of California at Berkeley. Soon after, in 1915, Russian language courses were launched at the University of Washington, and gradually expanded into the teaching of other Slavic languages. At Stanford University, the Hoover Institution's Central European and Russian collections were first developed in the early 1920s, and were complemented by the Stanford University Libraries' concerted collecting on East Central and Southeast Europe beginning in 1959. The University of Oregon established the Department of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies in 1968, which grew into a degree-granting program in 1998.

The Slavic, East European, and Eurasian library collections in the Pacific Northwest are deep and wide-ranging, representing geographic locations and vernacular languages of Balkan and South Slavic countries, the Baltic States, South Caucasus and Central Asia, Central Europe, Russia, and Ukraine, and support a broad spectrum of teaching and research needs. Below are some highlights of the specialized collections across the four institutions.

### Stanford University Libraries (SUL)

Among the extensive Slavic and East European collections at Stanford University Libraries are ones devoted to Polish literature and artists' books, and to Baltic studies. With respect to Polonica, the Zygmunt Haupt (1907-1975) papers comprise correspondence, literary manuscripts, drawings, notes, and photographs. The collection contains letters from prominent Polish émigrés, such as Jerzy Giedroyc, Zofia Hertz, Maria Czapska and Józef Czapski, Mieczysław Grydzewski, Zdzisław Ruszkowski, Aleksander Janta, Józef Wittlin, and many others

(finding aid available at: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf4q2nb0sh/>).

SUL collects books by contemporary Polish artists, representing new and dynamically developing artistic forms and expressions. In 1996, Wojciech Zalewski, former Curator for Slavic and Eastern European Collections, organized an exhibition of "Contemporary Polish Artists' Books," the first of its kind in the United States. A related 70-page catalogue, with text in English, was published in Warsaw. SUL traditionally acquires the Polish artists' books from the Book Art Museum in Łódź. The newest acquisition is *Zbigniew Brzezinski, Bibliography & Drawings = Zbigniew Brzezinski, bibliografia i rysunek* (1993). This book was promoted in the Library of Congress, and the authors received an award from the American History Printing Association in 2015. SUL has acquired additional books by Pawel Tryzno and other prominent artists from Poland, such as Alicja Slowikowska, Zygmunt Januszewski, and Witold Skulicz, which can be viewed in the Special Collections and University Archives.

The Baltic Studies collection of books, periodicals, manuscripts, and other materials (<http://library.stanford.edu/guides/baltic-studies>) has grown significantly during recent years. This, as well as the creation of the first-ever Baltic curator position in a U.S. academic library has been enabled by the 2011 Kistler Ritso Foundation's endowment to SUL, as well as the Foundation's continuous support towards developing Baltic studies. While focusing on the occupation, resistance, freedom, and recovery of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the SUL's Baltic collection also highlights the countries' connections to Finland and other Nordic states. With more than 30,000 titles, this is one of the strongest collections in the United States on the history, culture, and literature of the Baltic countries. SUL has recently begun collecting Baltic manuscripts, focusing mainly on the personal papers, letters, diaries, memoirs, and photos of those who were forced to leave the Baltic States during World War II and to resettle in the United States.

### University of California at Berkeley

UC Berkeley's East European and Slavic Studies collections remain well-known due to their specific areas of historical strength. UC Berkeley's collections on Russian America might be of special interest to those com-

memorating the 150th anniversary of the sale of Russian America's possessions, including Alaska, to the United States. These collections are of great historical interest as they also include the scrapbooks of Father Agapius Honcharenko, the founder and editor of the first Russian language newspaper, *Alaska Herald = Svoboda*, in the US.

Besides these scrapbooks, the UC Berkeley Bancroft library possesses extensive materials about Slavic groups in the Western United States, including many publications of the Russian-American Company and of the Russian settlement at Fort Ross, California. All Slavic imprints prior to 1850 are housed here along with rare literary editions. The Bancroft Library Manuscripts collection also houses the Kniazeff Collection (Russian émigré materials, documents of various Russian scouting organizations, and documents from various Russian Cossack groups). In addition to housing the print materials, the Library also has a collection of California-Russian Émigré Series of Oral Histories ([http://vm136.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/ROHO/collections/subjectarea/ics\\_movements/russia.html](http://vm136.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/ROHO/collections/subjectarea/ics_movements/russia.html)).

As far the new developments, the Library has now started to collect graphic novels that are published in various parts of Eastern Europe. These novels can be searched using "East European graphic novels collection" in Library catalog (<http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/>).

### University of Oregon

The development of Slavic collections at the University of Oregon began in 1922, when the Warner Family donated their collection of East Asian and Russian artifacts and books. The Gertrude Bass Warner collection includes sixty-six volumes about Russian, Byzantine, Slavic, and Central Asian art published from 1809 to 1939. The UO Libraries began actively acquiring Russian and East European books and serials only in 1957.

The UO Special Collections and Archives house the papers of Ruth Epperson Kennell, who spent time in the Soviet Union with Theodore Dreiser; rare photographs of Alaska; and conservative and libertarian collections of anti-communist materials, among many other collections. The UO Libraries system raises awareness about Old Believers and their heritage by providing open access to an online annotated bibliographic guide *Old Believers in North America* (<http://library.uoregon.edu/ec/oldbelievers/>) compiled by Margaret Mckibben.

Annually, the UO Libraries acquire a significant number of books related to Russian and East European literature, art, history, geography, and social sciences (<http://library.uoregon.edu/>). The uniqueness of the collection, which is the largest and the most significant in the state of Oregon, draws members of the Russian speaking commu-

nity, who are ardent readers and heavy users of the library, along with the students and faculty.

### University of Washington

Slavic, Baltic, and Eurasian studies continue to have a broad footprint in the academic programs at the University of Washington, and the UW Libraries continue to do their best to support the wide disciplinary and geographic spectrum represented by those programs. One of the standout resources the UW Libraries have been developing over the years is the William C. Brumfield Russian Architecture Collection, consisting of medium-resolution publicly accessible images and corresponding high-resolution archival scans of some 30,000 images of notable architectural objects located throughout Russia. Parts of UW's Brumfield collection, well on its way toward being provided with complete metadata, can be viewed at: <http://cdm16786.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16786coll1>.

Other resources unique to UW include a Baltic choral music collection which now numbers more than 1,000 scores, audio and video recordings, musicological studies, and other materials supporting both performance and research by UW's Choral Music programs, as well as faculty and students of the UW Baltic Studies Program. In 2005 UW accessioned the archives of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (<http://digital.lib.washington.edu/findingaids/permalink/AssociationfortheAdvancementofBalticStudies5572/>), and created a traveling and online exhibit featuring prominent members of the Seattle area Baltic American communities.

Local donations of manuscripts and photographs continue to help the UW document the history of the Slavic and East European presence in the Puget Sound Region (such as the Royal Serbian Bookstore of Seattle collection: <http://digital.lib.washington.edu/findingaids/permalink/KusakovichTheodorePHColl1312/>).

Though not unique in the strict sense, UW's strong library holdings for such regions as the Baltics and Slovenia are among a declining number of such collections in North America for these areas and force the larger question of how North American libraries can better collaborate to ensure the availability of these valuable and increasingly scarce resources to scholars into the future.

*Contributors: Barbara Krupa (Stanford), Liisi Esse (Stanford), Liladhar R. Pendse (UC Berkeley), Heggine Hakobyan (U Oregon), and Michael Biggins (U Washington)*



# Saving Seventeen Moments in Soviet History

## An Interview with Lewis Siegelbaum and James von Geldern

by Amy Nelson, Virginia Tech

For students and teachers of Soviet history, January 15, 2015 was a dark day. Overnight, the lights had gone out on Seventeen Moments in Soviet History, the rich multi-media archive of primary sources developed by James von Geldern and Lewis Siegelbaum nearly fifteen years ago. Within forty-eight hours, I had received a call from campus IT indicating that my email might have been involved in a security breach, and this announcement had appeared on the beloved web site's [Facebook Page](#):

Friends! It is with sadness that we announce that our 17 Moments in Soviet History website has been hacked. The user database was cleaned out, passwords and all, and posted to a hacker site on the internet. We have taken down the vulnerable site, and it will remain down until the updated version is ready, with a secure password system. Our 17 Moments in Soviet History @YouTube site will still be available for use in classrooms or at home.

An email inquiry to Lewis confirmed the terrible news. The archive, which includes more than 600 primary source texts, 270 video clips, 1,100 songs and 1,400 images – representing the incredible breadth and variety of the Soviet life in the way that ordinary people experienced it, had been defaced and could not be restored. The good news was that a new version was in the final stages of development. The bad news was that the coding team hired to do the work had signed off without completing the job.

*What was to be done?*

Knowing that I had been using Seventeen Moments extensively for a [web-based version](#) of my Soviet history course, and that I work at an institution with “Tech” in its title, Lewis and Jim asked if I could help. Initially we thought the new site could go live as soon as the remaining design glitches had been resolved (i.e. getting the subtitles to work on the audio files). But further inspection revealed that the security vulnerabilities which had shut down the old site existed in the new one as well. Furthermore, the custom CakePhp design of the “new site” had some serious limitations in terms of its adaptability to the rapidly changing aesthetics of web design and user expectations. Over the spring semester, we worked on two fronts: A team of undergraduate computer science majors at Virginia Tech tried to de-bug, secure, and finish the new site, while Jim, Lewis and I explored the options for switching the site to an open source CMS such as WordPress or Drupal. Once

it became clear that the CakePhp site would not be ready for users during the spring term, all efforts shifted to finding a designer and hosting service for another new site. We interviewed several web designers who were enthusiastic about the project but whose services were beyond our budget. Lewis then approached MATRIX, and when the digital humanities center at Michigan State offered to develop and host a new WordPress version of the site at the “friends and family” rate, we gratefully accepted.

Over the summer we worked with the team at MATRIX to select and customize a responsive WordPress theme. Although we are still very much in “beta” mode, the new site went live at <http://soviethistory.msu.edu/> in late August — just in time for the fall semester. We had worried that our users might have moved on or despaired, but were delighted to see traffic on the site pick up quickly, and even reach pre-crash levels (ca. 1,000 hits per day) in mid-September.

As we finish working the kinks out of the new site and look forward to expanding the scope of Seventeen Moments in the near future, I asked Jim and Lewis to reflect on the site’s rebirth and their work as its creators and stewards over the years:

*AN: Generous funding from the NEH supported the initial acquisition of materials and design of the original site in 2002. Grants from your home institutions had supported software updates along the way, and Kristen Edwards developed content from the Hoover Institute and coordinated a major upgrade to the site in 2008. But as the site has grown and online environments have evolved, the funding landscape for the digital humanities has changed significantly as well. Support for making new materials available online is much easier to secure than funds for updating and maintaining existing resources, even one as rich, and extensively used as this one. Surely the success of Seventeen Moments derives in part from its easy accessibility – it is both open access (free) and has a low entry bar in terms of learning the interface. What would you like to say about the importance and difficulty of updating and maintaining a community resource like this?*

*LS: The importance is that each year, thousands and thousands of students take classes in Russian/Soviet history for the first time while others seek to deepen their knowledge and we have come to assume an obligation to give them all the best we have got — that is, to keep abreast of techno-*

logical improvements as well as new access to documents previously unavailable. The recent plethora of films from Mosfilm available on YouTube is an example.

The difficulty of updating and maintaining the site is partly the short shelf-life of web-based resources and methods of accessing them, and partly that emphases and to some extent interpretations about the Soviet past change. Who anticipated the spate of works on the history of emotions, for example?

JvG: Our ambition in the current round of updates has been, beyond getting a cleaner, more contemporary interface, to exploit the potentials of Web 2.0. Despite frustrations with our developers that have made it seem like we will achieve Web 2.0 just as Web 3.0 becomes reality, we hope to make the site more interactive. This would involve a variety of added functions (and we are open to suggestions for others), ranging from the ability of users to upload archival documents and add to bibliographies for each subject (pending editorial approval), to highlighting trending entries (e.g. Lewis' entry on [Crimea](#) brought 50,000 visitors to the site in March 2014).

Another hope was, and is, that we can solicit far more contributions from our colleagues. Entries from Kristen Edwards, Amy Randall, Denise Youngblood, Deborah Field, Christine Evans and Steven E. Harris have been very successful, and there are many other voices which would add variety — and varieties of variety — and would promise long life into a future when Lewis and I have passed the site along.

Finally, technologies change, even if our abilities to use them don't. While we might find it silly to read Lenin on Dual Power on a cell phone, our students probably find it silly to read the text on a desktop. The new site is fully mobile-accessible.

*AN: The new interface is significantly different from the previous version. What would you like to say about the priorities and constraints we faced in choosing a new platform and designing the new layout?*

JvG: We have developed rudimentary — and perhaps a little beyond — skills that have allowed us to maintain the MySQL/PHP based website over the last fifteen years. They seemed awfully sophisticated back in 2000, and they are still powerful, but there are better tools for managing a large repository of knowledge. We just needed to be told what they are. The new site is being built using WordPress, which will allow for continuing updates (security!), and with some practice, is much easier to use. Sometimes it feels like we have traded a '67 Mustang for a new Prius. The Prius is surely more reliable, but if it breaks down, we'd rather be working on the Mustang.

Design is always a difficult thing. We have been lucky in the past to have coders who were also aesthetically gifted, but this is not always the case. The current design follows the trend of using cleaner and simpler designs that, ideally, make navigation intuitive. Ultimately, as we wrote on the site when it was first born:

... we hope with this web site help[s] students and readers understand the more complicated truth, that at all moments of its history, the Soviet Union offered experiences of great good and great evil. Soviet citizens were forced to understand them as a whole. The object of this web site is to give users a sense of what this total experience was like, using the original words of the participants. We have selected from Soviet history seventeen moments - following the title of a beloved spy series of the seventies - almost at random but not entirely. Some of these events were judged subsequently by history to be important, some less so.

With all the bells and whistles, the new design still seems to allow that.

*Continued on page 22*



The summer convention's theme is "Images of the Other" - instrumental use and abuse of the 'Other' in politics, cultural and social practices; the role of ethnic, cultural, social and gender stereotypes; representations of the 'Other' in memory politics, art, public discourse and media; and scholarship regarding the 'Other' as a social construct. ASEES and MAG invite papers and panel proposals, related to the theme, understood in the broadest possible sense.

The ASEES-MAG Summer Convention will take place at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

<http://aseees.org/news-events/aseees-news-feed/aseees-mag-summer-convention-lviv-ukraine-june-2016>

AN: *How do people use the site and how has that changed in the last decade?*

LS: Well, you can answer this question better than we. We organized two sessions at previous ASEEES (or AAASS) conferences at which users shared their experiences and frustrations with the site. But other than the occasional e-mail message to us describing some particular delight or asking if we are interested in including a new unit, we have little idea of how the site is being used beyond our own local experiences.

JvG: Over the last ten years or so, it is occasionally apparent that we are among the least creative teachers using this site. Others, including yourself, have tied the site in with class blogs; they project the site, particularly the multimedia entries, directly in the classroom -- it took us about ten years to figure out that some might like this! Some allow students to select a writing topic directly from the site and then use the materials from the site as the stuff of their assignment. This seems to be particularly helpful when the goal is to learn analysis and writing, rather than research.

In the past we have kept logs that allowed us to study what levels of student in what sort of course and school with what level of expertise used the site. We have been constantly surprised by the range of students (from junior high to graduate school), disciplines and geographic region used the site.

AN: *While we continue to develop our data collection processes on the new site, readers should know that there is a form available [here](#) to offer feedback and suggestions. Now, can you say something about the most rewarding aspects of the relaunch?*

LS: The relaunch gave me the opportunity to reacquaint myself with the rich resources contained on the site, or in two instances to discover items hitherto unknown to me. One was a song by the great Russian singer (and poet) Aleksandr Vertinsky that appears under the "Death of the Old Culture" subject essay in 1917. The song is listed as "[Long Road](#)" (*Dorogoi dlinnoiu*). It was first performed by Vertinsky at a benefit concert on October 25, 1917, virtually while the October Revolution was happening. How astonished I was to hear the melody, for it is the one that Gene Raskin used to write the lyrics to "Those Were the Days," which became a hit for the Welsh singer Mary Hopkin in 1968.

The other is an audio under "1939 - Cult of Personality" of [Trotsky](#) (yes, Trotsky) speaking in "very imperfect" English from his compound in Mexico City in 1937 about the calumnies that had been hurled at him in the Soviet Union. I had never heard Trotsky's voice before

- in any language. What a find! For this we are happy to thank the Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center.

JvG: Perhaps more than anything, it reaffirms the life of a project that, when we first conceived of it in 1998 — when the hottest browser was Netscape Navigator, which let you, if your modem could handle 56K, see images — we imagined would have a life of several years, and several hundred users.

AN: *And here you are, seventeen years later with many thousands of users. The longevity and popularity of the site are truly impressive. I think one of the reasons for the latter is that as a multi-media repository, Seventeen Moments is broad and deep as well as accessible to students at all levels. The subject essays are key here. They briefly introduce students to a topic in a way that inspires curiosity about the texts, images, video, and audio materials. But having these materials accessible to an English-speaking audience involves lots of translation and the delivery of subtitles and captions. I think it's safe to say that subtitling and captioning the audio, music and video files caused more headaches than just about any other aspect of the project. Could you talk about the challenges of generating these tools and keeping them functional over many years as the technology has changed?*

LS: Writing the Subject Essays was the most challenging but also enjoyable aspect of getting the site up and running and I imagine it remains so for other contributors.

### Forthcoming in *Slavic Review* Spring 2016

"Species of Legitimacy: The Rhetoric of Succession around Russian Coins" by Jacob Emery

"Rereading Moscow Conceptualism" by Mary A. Nicholas

"A Struggle for the Soviet Future: The Birth of Scientific Forecasting in the Soviet Union" by Eglė Rindzevičiūtė

"Parahistory: History at Play in Russia and Beyond" by Jeffrey Brooks and Boris Dralyuk

"Yugoslav Protest: Student Rebellion in Belgrade, Zagreb, and Sarajevo in 1968" by Madigan Fichter

"Appealing for a Car: Consumption Policies and Entitlement in the USSR, the GDR and Romania, 1950s–1980s" by Luminita Gatejel

They are intended as gateways; but there was no consistency about how we went about achieving this aim. Sometimes we composed the essays and then found corresponding materials; in other cases, we had a wealth of material and wrote the essays accordingly. In the end, we ourselves were surprised at the sheer volume of the essays: about 300 manuscript pages.

JvG: Beyond the periodic redesigns of the site and the need to add new functions, frequent changes in format have been difficult to keep up with. The site debuted using Real Audio and Real Video (look it up) for the streaming content; then switched to Flash Audio and Video; and now uses MP3 and MP4. The speed and volume capacity of the internet has increased exponentially over the years, as have expectations for quality. If a 50kb image, a 500kb song or a 2MB video satisfied demands in 2002, we have had to constantly redigitize materials, most importantly the archival newsreel footage that we had the film archive in Krasnogorsk transfer to videotape (remember that?) in 1998-1999. It is getting hard to find the machinery that will allow us to do this again, if need be.

One of the most irksome tasks has been creating the subtitles for 200 audio files and 300 video files. You can't download those on the web! There are no transcriptions or translations for most of them, fewer still have synchronized subtitles. The industry standard for subtitle format has changed several times over the last fifteen years. All this has been done by us by hand; and much of it originally with clumsy technology (imagine transcribing and syncing song translations on an audio cassette player).

*AN: Readers should know that Jim is underselling his talents as a bootstrapping debugger of audio files here. Getting the subtitles to work bedeviled both the design team of the failed upgrade and the expert crew at MATRIX this summer. After we received a long list of titles that MATRIX deemed hopeless, Jim turned his detective talents to the forensics of character-encoding, and within a few days posted the following message on the project worksite:*

*"Thanks for all your effort on this issue, but you no longer need to work on it. I have solved the problem. The malfunctioning music files contain metadata with an older KOI-8 Cyrillic font, which browsers and servers display as gibberish. The server seemingly cannot read the metadata or find the files, even when they have been uploaded. I have stripped the offending metadata from the files, uploaded the new copies, and the music now plays with subtitles."*

*AN: I think it's safe to say that few web developers these days count familiarity with KOI-8 character encoding as a necessary part of their toolkit, since it pre-dates the World Wide Web! Lewis, is there anything else you'd like to add?*

LS: When our hosts at Matrix were working on the site to upgrade the design and load the material, one of them remarked that he had no idea how much the site contained. "It's like those Russian dolls," he observed. "You open up one thing to discover another whole layer of stuff, and then you open up something in that layer and the same thing happens again." While it's hard to know whether this was said in frustration or admiration, we took it as a compliment.

*Lewis Siegelbaum is Jack & Margaret Sweet Professor of Russian and European History at Michigan State University; James Von Geldern is Professor of Russian and International Studies, and Chair of Russian Studies at Macalester College; Amy Nelson is Associate Professor of Russian History at Virginia Tech.*

## DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD

Established in 1970 the Association's Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award honors senior scholars who have helped to build and develop the field through scholarship, training, and service to the profession.

### NOMINATING INSTRUCTIONS

- The Committee accepts nominations in writing or via e-mail from any member of ASEES.
- Submit nomination letter(s) to the Committee Chair. The nomination letter should include: biography focusing on the individual's distinguished achievements in Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies; a list of publications and editorships; a list of awards and prizes; and his or her involvement in and service to ASEES, if any.
- Self-nomination is not accepted.
- Committee members also survey the field for possible awardees.

The deadline for nominations is April 1

The winner of the Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies Award will be chosen by members of the Honors and Awards Committee:

- Andrew Wachtel, American U of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan), Chair, 2014-2016
- Jan Kubik, U College London (UK), 2016-2018
- Denise Youngblood, U of Vermont, 2015-2017



## Publications

Three String Books has published a translation of *Apollon Bezobrazov*, a modernist novel by Boris Poplavsky now translated by John Kopper. This publication focuses on prose in the 1920s; The hero embodies the figure of the urban hippie—the flâneur of French literature—while the narrator, a young Russian, falls under his spell. The story describes in colorful, poetic detail the hand-to-mouth existence of a small band of displaced Russians in Paris and Italy. It chronicles their poverty, their diversions, their intensely played out love affairs, and Bezobrazov's gradual transformation in the eyes of his admiring followers. The novel abounds in allusions to Eastern religion, Western philosophy, and 19th-century Russian literature.

*The Ethnic Avant-Garde: Minority Cultures and World Revolution* by Steven Lee was published by Columbia University Press in October 2015. The book explores Vladimir Mayakovsky's 1925 visit to New York City via Cuba and Mexico, during which he wrote Russian-language poetry in an "Afro-Cuban" voice; Langston Hughes's translations of these poems while in Moscow; a futurist play condemning Western imperialism in China, which became Broadway's first major production to feature a predominantly Asian American cast; and efforts to imagine the Bolshevik Revolution as Jewish messianic arrest, followed by the slow political disenchantment of the New York Intellectuals. Through a collage of cross-ethnic encounters, this work remaps global modernism along minority and Soviet-centered lines, advancing the avant-garde project of seeing the world anew.

*Lost Russia: Photographing the Ruins of Russian Architecture*, with text and photographs by William Craft Brumfield, has been released as a 20th anniversary edition, with new preface (Duke University Press, June 2015).

Marius Turda's book *The History of Eugenics in East-Central Europe, 1900-1945: Texts and Commentaries* was published by Bloomsbury Publishing in August 2015. The book explores the ideological transmission of eugenics internationally and its application locally in East-Central Europe. It includes 100 primary sources translated from the East-Central European languages into English for the first time and key contributions from leading scholars in the field from around Europe. This volume examines the main eugenic organizations, as well as individuals and policies that shaped eugenics in Austria, Poland, the former Czechoslovakia, the former Yugoslavia, Hungary and Romania. It also explores the ways in which ethnic minorities interacted with national and international eugenics discourses to advance their own aims and ambitions, whilst providing a comparative analysis of the emergence and development of eugenics in East-Central Europe more generally. Complete with a glossary of terms, a list of all eugenic societies and journals from these countries, as well as a comprehensive bibliography.

[\*Late and Post Soviet Russian Literature: A Reader, Book II \(Thaw and Stagnation\)\*](#), edited by Mark Lipovetsky & Lisa Ryoko Wakamiya, been published by Academic Studies Press. This book treats the literature of the Thaw and Stagnation periods

(1954-1986). It includes translations of poetry and prose as well as scholarly texts that provide additional material for discussion. The goal of this volume is to present the range of ideas, creative experiments, and formal innovations that accompanied the social and political changes of the late Soviet era. The volume includes introductory essays and biographical notes.

Two books by Ewa M. Thompson were published in translation in September 2015. *Imperial Knowledge: Russian Literature and Colonialism*, translated into Hungarian by Lajos Pálfalvi, was published in Budapest by Meghívó Press, and third Chinese edition of *Understanding Russia: The Holy Fool in Russian Culture*, translated into Chinese by Yang De-you, was published in Beijing by Yilin Press.

E.P. Clark has recently published *The Midnight Land*, a novel that has been described as a feminist epic fantasy where all the characters have Slavic names and the erudite reader can find references to the *Почтение Владимира Мономаха*, Pushkin's plays, the lyrics of Viktor Tsoy, and many other works.

Yvonne Howell's book *Red Star Tales: 100 Years of Russian and Soviet Science Fiction* was published by Russian Life Books in November 2015. *Red Star Tales* includes 18 stories, spanning from path-breaking, pre-revolutionary works of the 1890s, through the difficult Stalinist era, to post-Soviet stories published in the 1980s and 90s. Among others, there are works by the founder of Russian rocketry, by the "Soviet Jules Verne", by the renowned writer Andrei Platonov, and by masters such as Dolgushin and Bulychev – household names to a significant cross-section of the Russian intelligentsia, but virtually unheard of in the West.

The Kennan Institute and Woodrow Wilson Center Press announce the publication of *Roots of Russia's War in Ukraine* by Elizabeth A. Wood, William E. Pomeranz, E. Wayne Merry, and Maxim Trudolyubov in December 2015. The book offers four perspectives on the origins of the ongoing war in Ukraine, untangling the social, historical, and political factors that created the war and perpetuate its tensions, concentrating on Russian motivations and intentions.

Slavica Publishers announces the publication of Cynthia M. Vakareliyska's *Lithuanian Root List*, which presents a list of common Lithuanian roots, prefixes, suffixes, together with their English meanings. The *Lithuanian Root List* is intended both for linguists interested in the structure of modern Lithuanian or in the historical comparison of Lithuanian with other Indo-European languages, and for students and instructors of Lithuanian.

*Skaz: Masters of Russian Storytelling*, edited and translated by Danielle Jones, was published by Translit Publishing in November 2014. *Skaz*—from the Russian *skazat*, "to tell"—is a unique narrative form with prominent oral, storytelling qualities. This dual-language anthology, which includes stories by Babel, Chekhov, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Zoschenko, and many other *skaz* masters, incorporates the Russian text side-by-side with the English translation. Ideal for students of Russian



and heritage speakers, this volume represents a snapshot of the evolution of *skaz* throughout the Tsarist and Soviet eras, and promises a captivating read to any admirer of Russian culture, literature, or history. The volume includes introduction, author biographical sketches, annotations, and discussion questions.

Michale Kunichika's *Our Native Antiquity: Archaeology and Aesthetics in the Culture of Russian Modernism* was published by Academic Studies Press in March 2015. *Our Native Antiquity* follows the exemplary careers of two objects—the so-called “Stone Women” and the kurgan, or burial mound—and the attention paid to them by Russian and Soviet archaeologists, writers, artists, and filmmakers, for whom these artifacts served as resources for modernist art and letters and as arenas for a contest between vying conceptions of Russian art culture, and history. The modernists central to *Our Native Antiquity* located their antiquity in the Eurasian steppes, where they found objects and sites long denigrated as archaeological curiosities. For Russian modernists in search of a past, there were many antiquities of different provenances and varying degrees of prestige from which to choose: Greece or Rome; Byzantium or Egypt.

*Vladimir Jabotinsky's Story of My Life*, edited by Brian Horowitz and Leonid Katsis, was published by Wayne State University Press, December 2015. Vladimir Jabotinsky is well remembered as a militant leader and father of the right-wing Revisionist Zionist movement, but he was also a Russian-Jewish intellectual, talented fiction writer, journalist, playwright, and translator of poetry into Russian and Hebrew. His autobiography, written in Hebrew and published in 1936, gives a more nuanced picture of Jabotinsky than his popular image, but it was never published in English. Editors Brian Horowitz and Leonid Katsis present this translation for the first time, based on a rough draft of an

English version that was discovered in Jabotinsky's archive at the Jabotinsky Institute in Tel Aviv. The editors introduce the full text of the autobiography by discussing Jabotinsky's life, legacy, and writings in depth.

*Witness and Transformation: The Poetics of Gennady Aygi* by Sarah Valentine has been published by Academic Studies Press in October 2015. *Witness and Transformation* is the first full-length critical study of Chuvash-born poet Gennady Aygi (1934-2006), considered the father of late-Soviet avant-garde Russian poetry. The book charts the development of Aygi's poetics, which draws equally on Russian poetic and religious tradition, European literature and philosophy, and Chuvash literature, folk culture, and cosmology. Moving chronologically through Aygi's life and work from the 1950s to his final work in the early 2000s, the book concludes with an interview with American poet Fanny Howe about the importance of Aygi's work in translation. The volume places Aygi in the context of twentieth-century poetry of witness and reveals the global significance of his work.

*The World to Come: Ukrainian Images of the Last Judgment*, by Liliya Berezhnaya and John-Paul Himka, was published by the Harvard University Press in August 2015 as part of the Harvard Ukrainian Series. *The World to Come* lists and describes more than eighty Last Judgment images from present-day Ukraine, eastern Slovakia, and southeastern Poland, making it the full-est compilation of its kind. Photographs show overviews and details of the images, and most are printed in full color. The icons and murals provide a valuable source of knowledge about the culture in which they were created: what was meant by good and evil, what was prophesied for the future, and what awaited in the afterlife.

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# Institutional Member News

## THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER Fellowship Opportunities

### Title VIII Fellowships

The Kennan Institute offers 3-9 month research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. We also offer two-month summer research fellowships. The deadline for the next research and summer research fellowship competitions is January 15, 2016.

Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants allow U.S. citizens whose policy-relevant research in the social sciences or humanities focused on the countries of Eurasia, to spend up to one month using the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area, while in residence at the Kennan Institute. The next deadline for these grants is February 15, 2016.

Please see our website for more details on the Title VIII-supported fellowship program: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-opportunities-and-internships>.

### George F. Kennan Fellowships

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

### Research Team Option:

Please note applicants have an option to apply for the fellowship as individuals or as part of a team. If applying as a team of two (or three) applicants, the applicants must be citizens of at least two different countries. The goal of such joint fellowships is to promote collaborative research projects among U.S., Russian, and Ukrainian experts.

George F. Kennan Fellowship Teams will:

- Produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications.
- Present work at D.C., Russia, and/or Ukraine events.
- Conduct meetings and engage with policymakers in D.C.

Competitions for the fellowships will be held twice yearly with the following application deadlines: March 1 and September 1.

Applicants must submit a completed application –

please see our website for more details: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/grant-opportunities-and-internships-0>

The George F. Kennan Fellowship offers a monthly stipend of \$3,200, research facilities, and computer access. Fellows are required to be in residence at the Kennan Institute, Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. for the duration of the grant. Awardees are expected to commence their three-month appointments within one year of accepting the fellowship.

### Scholars in Residence

The Kennan Institute welcomes its current and incoming scholars this winter:

### Galina Starovoitova Fellows on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

Natella Boltyanskaya, Host, Echo of Moscow Radio, and Columnist, *Novaya Gazeta and Ejednevni Journal*. “Parallels. People. Events. (History of Soviet Dissidents).”

Anton Ryzhov, Lawyer, NGO “Committee against Torture.” “Human Rights Discourse in the Foreign and Domestic Policies of Russia (2011-2015).”

### George F. Kennan Fellow

Denis Sokolov, Senior Research Fellow, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. “Institutionalization of violent practices in the North Caucasus.”

### Kennan-Fulbright Scholar

Valery Yevarouski, Head, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. “Comparative Analysis of Enlightenment-Affected Politics (1740-1795): Case of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the US”

### CFP: TRANSLATING ARMENIANS, ARMENIANS TRANSLATED: RETHINKING METHODOLOGIES FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES

The Seventh Annual International Graduate Student Workshop will be held April 22-23, 2016 at University of Michigan. Deadline for submission of abstracts: November 15, 2015

In recent years, the notion of translation has acquired a new currency while becoming invested with a new urgency, in particular for “marginal” programs within area studies, such as Armenian studies, which are often called to engage with translation in their efforts to position themselves within broader critical conversations that extend beyond their disciplinary scope. In an effort to expand on such conversations, a workshop, which will take place in April 2016, will focus on this topic with a two-day event entitled “Translating Armenians, Armenians Translated: Rethinking Methodologies for Armenian Studies.”

A full call and instructions on how to apply: [http://ii.umich.edu/asp/events/workshops/translatingarmeniansarmenianstranslated\\_ci](http://ii.umich.edu/asp/events/workshops/translatingarmeniansarmenianstranslated_ci)



## In Memoriam

**Susan Hicks**, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Russian and East European Studies, died October 23 after being hit by a car while riding her bicycle home from work. Hicks grew up in Woodbridge, Virginia, and received her BA and MA from the University of Pittsburgh. She then received her doctorate in cultural anthropology from the University of British Columbia, having conducted her dissertation research in Siberia. Before joining the U of Pittsburgh CREES staff in 2013, Hicks worked for the American Councils for International Education in Ufa, Russia. Devoted to a wide range of interests, Hicks was most passionate about promoting international studies and dedicated to her students.

**Teresa (Terry) Lynn Polowy**, professor of Russian and Slavic Studies at the University of Arizona passed away on November 25, 2015. She will be remembered as a kind and charismatic person who embodies the ideals of our profession. During her twenty-five years of teaching at University of Arizona, Polowy worked with countless students, fostering interest and passion in Slavic languages and cultures.

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Polowy moved to Tucson in 1990 where she began her long and fruitful career in the UA Department of Russian and Slavic Studies. Head of the department until 2015, Polowy coordinated several partnerships with the community, including a tutoring program for high school students learning Russian and an internship for UA students to work with Holocaust survivors.

Polowy's contribution to the field of Slavic Studies includes many articles, translations, presentations, reviews, and a full-length study of the popular Russian writer, Valentin Rasputin. Her monograph, *The Novellas of Valentin Rasputin: Genre, Language and Style* (1989) was one of the first works to examine this author in depth. A pioneer in the field of gender and Russian literary studies, Polowy authored groundbreaking work on the portrayal of alcoholism in female-authored texts from the Soviet and post-Soviet periods.

**Victor Winston** passed away on November 23, 2015, aged 90.

Victor Henry Winston was born in Vilnius, Lithuania on February 22, 1925. In June 1941 the Russians arrested the Winston family for Zionist activities. 16-year-old Winston was sent to Siberia where he spent four years in jails and concentration camps. Having survived his incarceration, Winston left in 1946 for the United States, where he earned a bachelor's and master's degree at Columbia University.

In the 1950s, Winston taught at the Army War College before founding his own publishing house, Bellwether Publishing in 1959. Concurrent with his leadership of Bellwether, Winston also served as Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at George Mason University and as a Visiting Professor of International Affairs at Marshall University.

Much of Winston's academic scholarship drew on his

own heritage and experiences including the city of Vilnius during the war years and the deportation of Soviet Jews. He also wrote about economic and political developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. As well as journal articles, he co-edited a book with Ed A Hewett titled *Milestones in Glasnost and Perestroika* (The Brookings Institution, 1991).

Winston founded several journals, including *Soviet Geography: Review and Translation* (1960), (now known as *Geography and Economics*), *Urban Geography and Physical Geography, Mapping Sciences and Remote Sensing* (now known as *GIScience & Remote Sensing*). In 2010, Winston and Bellwether Publishing received the AAG's prestigious Publication Award, in recognition of his many years of service as a rare combination of scholar and publisher, and of more than 50 years of sustained support for the discipline of geography through production of outstanding geography journals.

**Slava Yastremski**, Professor of Russian at Bucknell University, passed away on Friday, November 13th. He was 63.

Yastremski was born and grew up in Moscow. He graduated from the Department of Theater History and Dramatic Literature of the Moscow State Theatrical Institute. In 1981 he received his PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Kansas. For the next 9 years, he served as the coordinator of Russian language instruction at Yale University and taught and produced plays at Middlebury's Russian Summer School.

Yastremski joined the Bucknell Faculty in 1990, where he played an instrumental role in leading the Russian Studies Program, and in supporting both the Programs in Comparative Humanities and Film Studies and Bucknell's Residential College system. Yastremski's main area of research, and great passion, was to bring Russian literature and culture to the broader English-speaking audience via translation. He, alongside frequent collaborator Michael Naydan, published many successful translations of works by important Soviet and Russian writers and poets. His most prominent translations include a collection of Vasily Aksyonov's stories *Surplussed Barrelware* (with Joel Wilkinson), Andrei Sinyavsky's *Strolls with Pushkin* (with Catherine Nepomnyashchy), which won the The AATSEEL Best Translation Award in 1994, Olga Sedakova's *Poems and Elegies* (with Catriona Kelly, Michael Naydan, and Andrew Wachtel), and, most recently, Igor Klekh's *The Book of Slavic Food*, which will bear a dedication to Slava (forthcoming, with Michael Naydan). Yastremski also leaves us with several works in progress.



# Affiliate News

## 2016 MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE

The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University (OSU) Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES) are pleased to announce the 2016 Midwest Slavic Conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio April 8-10, 2016. 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 Dr. Serhii Plokhii (Harvard University) on Ukraine's current crisis in historical perspective on Friday, April 8th, followed by two days of panels. <http://slaviccenter.osu.edu/about/conferences/midwest-slavic>

Please send a one-paragraph abstract and a brief C.V. in PDF format to [csees@osu.edu](mailto:csees@osu.edu) by January 15th. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate. Limited funding is available for undergraduate and graduate student lodging with preference given to out-of-state participants.

Participants can elect to have their abstract, paper, and presentation included in the conference's Knowledge Bank community. Knowledge Bank is a digital archive that is part of Ohio State's University Libraries. CSEES maintains a community within Knowledge Bank for the Midwest Slavic Conference to increase the dissemination of knowledge produced at the conference. Items included in the community are freely available to be viewed and downloaded by the public and are searchable. Please consider having your abstract, paper, and PowerPoint included in Knowledge Bank this year. CALL FOR PAPERS

## CFP: NORTHEAST SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

You are invited to submit a proposal for an individual paper or for a complete panel for the 37th annual Conference of the Northeast Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. The Conference will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia.

Yanni Kotsonis, Director of the Jordan Center, will be the President of the 2016 Conference.

Scholarly papers and panels are welcome on any aspect of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Complete panels will receive preference over individual paper submissions. Proposals must include the following:

1. Title and a one-paragraph abstract
2. Any requests for technical support (very important!)
3. Presenter's email and surface mail addresses
4. Presenter's institutional affiliation and professional status (professor, graduate student, etc.)
5. The name and contact information for the panel organizer, where applicable.

Undergraduate students under the guidance of a faculty mentor may present a paper at the Conference if the faculty mentor submits the information listed above.

Please send your proposals via electronic format to [NESEEEES@gmail.com](mailto:NESEEEES@gmail.com) not later than January 15, 2016.

As always, professionals in the field are encouraged to volunteer to serve as chairs and/or discussants. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Two juried awards are made annually for the best graduate papers presented at the NESEEEES Conference judged according to the following criteria:

- clarity of main research question outlining the scholar's approach to the topic
- importance of the research to the profession
- amount of support for the argument
- use of primary sources
- adequate and interesting content
- readiness for publication: use of English, readability and style

Following the Conference, graduate students may submit revised papers to the competition for review. Visual materials accompanying the presentation at the Conference should be submitted along with the written text for evaluation. The first prize paper will be entered in the national ASEEEES competition.

## SHERA NEWS

The Society of Historians of Eastern European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture (SHERA) held 27 panels and roundtable sessions at the 47th Annual ASEEEES Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Topics ranged from Visual Culture in Late Socialism to Fashion in Utopian Societies to Performance, Urban Planning, and Russian artists' journeys to Italy. There was also a state of the field roundtable organized by Jane Sharp, Associate Professor of Art History at Rutgers University.

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At CAA's annual conference in February, SHERA will sponsor two sessions: "Collecting, Curating, Canonizing, Critiquing: The Institutionalization of Eastern European Art," chaired by Ksenia Nouril; and a double session chaired by Professor Alison Hilton, titled "Exploring Native Traditions in the Arts of Eastern Europe and Russia." In December 2015 Yelena Kalinsky and Ksenya Gurshtein ended their terms as the SHERA Secretary/Treasurer and the Web News Editor respectively. Elections were held for early December to find their replacements.

CFP: SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES  
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, MARCH 17-19, 2016

Scholars in all disciplines related to Slavic, Eurasian, and East European studies are encouraged to submit panel or paper proposals to Alice Pate at Kennesaw University (apate9@kennesaw.edu). Please include email addresses for all panel members.

SCSS has a special rate at the Embassy Suites in downtown Tuscaloosa. The panels and keynote banquet will happen in the hotel. On Saturday after the formal conference concludes there will be an excursion to Moundville (the second largest city in America from the 11th-16th centuries). More events are in the works, and at the appropriate time there will be an online registration portal making all of this easier for all. For additional information about Tuscaloosa, contact local arrangements chair Margaret Peacock (mepeacock@as.ua.edu).

SCSS NEWS

Olavi Arens and Sharon Kowalsky, are the new president and president-elect of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SLAVIC STUDIES NEWS

The Western Association for Slavic Studies (WASS) conference will be held, jointly with the Western Social Science Association, April 13-16, 2016, Reno, NV.

For more information, see <http://www.wssaweb.com/> sections. Questions can be directed to Slavic Section Coordinator: Robert Niebuhr, robert.niebuhr@asu.edu.



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THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK IS HIRING A FULL PROFESSOR IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Division of Humanities and Arts at The City College of New York (CCNY) announces a major expansion of its Jewish Studies program, aided by a generous gift from Michael and Irene Ross. We wish to recruit a senior scholar in Jewish History for the Michael and Irene Ross Chair in Hebrew and Yiddish. The successful candidate will have major publications, extensive teaching experience, and a national and international reputation. The geographic and chronological focus is open, but the person must be able to work in Hebrew and Yiddish, among other languages. The position begins August 27, 2016. The tenure home will be in the Department of History with teaching responsibilities split between History and Jewish Studies. The possibility exists of teaching doctoral students at the CUNY Graduate Center.

The Jewish Studies Program at CCNY attracts a largely non-Jewish student body, with nearly 1000 registering for the program's classes each academic year. The successful candidate should be able to communicate his or her expertise effectively to a diverse student body, and lead the enhancement of the research and scholarly dimensions of the program.

The Division of Humanities and Arts encompasses eight departments and includes internationally distinguished professors. The faculty collaborate in interdisciplinary programs at the college and provide students a high-level liberal arts education.

To apply, please view the job posting (Job ID 13771) at <http://www.cuny.edu/employment/jobsearch.html>, and follow all instructions. Please upload a CV; two articles or chapters; a summary of current and future research interest; teaching portfolio, including syllabi, statement of teaching interests, and evaluations. At least three confidential letters of recommendation and one copy each of major books should be sent separately to: Professor Craig Daigle, Department of History, NAC 5/144, City College of New York, New York, NY 10031



## Personages

**Barbara Allen** received a grant from the Hoover Institution at Stanford University to conduct research for her work on an anthology of documents of the Worker's Opposition.

**Jackie Byrd** has retired from her position at Indiana University Libraries.

**David C. Fisher** is the newly appointed Associate Dean of the Honors College at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

**Anna Frajlich**, Senior Lecturer in Slavic Languages at Columbia University, was named laureate of the 2015 Prize by the Union of Polish Writers in Exile, which is based in London. Frajlich, the author of 10 books of poetry, one prose volume, and two books of criticism about the work of Jozef Wittlin and Czeslaw Milosz, was awarded the prize for her work as a whole. "Her literary roots lie deep in Polish, Jewish and American culture, but it is in the Polish language that she finds a safe haven and belonging.... The journey, exile, the passing of time are frequent themes in her works, but she seeks not only her own place in the world, but goodness and beauty. Her work has a deep humanitarian dimension."

The announcement of the award was made at the Lazienki Palace in Warsaw during the ceremony celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Union of Polish Writers in Exile.

**Zachary Kelly** is now the Assistant Director of the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at UC Berkeley.

**Alisha Kirchoff** left the position of associate director of the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center at the U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to start a PhD program at Indiana U. **Maureen Marshall** is now the new associate director. Also, **Samantha Celmer** has been named the new outreach and program coordinator.

**Ian Lanzillotti** is now Assistant Professor of European History at Tennessee Wesleyan College.

**Lynn Lubamersky** was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for teaching and research at the European Humanities University in Vilnius, Lithuania for her project "Mapping the Vanished Communities of the Past in Vilnius, Lithuania."

The new editor of the journal *Slavic & East European Information Resources* will be **Dan Pennell**, Curator for Slavic, European and Global Studies at the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System (ULS). Pennell will begin with vol. 17, no. 3, a special issue edited by Edward Kasinec.

**James Peterson** has retired after thirty years as Head of the Department of Political Science at Valdosta State University.

**Maria Omelicheva** stepped down in the fall 2015 as the director of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Kansas. **Vitaly Chernetsky** has been appointed the acting director.

**Donald Raleigh** is now Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies at UNC, Chapel Hill.

One of two annual Milan Hodža Awards of Honor was presented to **Martin Votruba**, head of the Slovak Studies Program in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh. The Milan Hodža Awards are named after the last prime minister of Czechoslovakia before Nazi German influence and recognize the sciences and work that links Slovakia and the rest of the world. The award was given "for the advancement of knowledge of Slovak history and culture in the Slavic department at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh and for his support to the preservation of Slovak culture in the awareness of Slovak-Americans and public at large," according to the award citation.

**Janine Wedel** was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to study in Ukraine during 2015-2016.

**Alexei Yurchak** has won the prestigious Russian "Prosvetitel" (Enlightener) Book Prize for the best non-fiction book of 2015, for the Russian version of his book *Everything Was Forever Until It Was No More* (Это было навсегда, пока не кончилось), which he himself rewrote in Russian and expanded. The award ceremony was held in Moscow's Academic Theater on November 19, 2015.

### ASEEES WEBINAR: PUBLISHING YOUR FIRST BOOK Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2-3pm EST

Linda Manning, from Northern Illinois University Press, will present tips on how to prepare for submitting a proposal—and eventually a manuscript—to an academic publisher. Topics covered will include seeking out publishers, making contact, submitting a proposal, and an overview of the publishing process. There will be some specific guidance provided for publishing a revised dissertation. Register on the website: <http://aseees.org/programs/webinars>

## NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

See the separate announcement in this issue of NewsNet for Slavica's new imprint *Three String Books*, devoted to literary translations.

Sarah Badcock, Liudmila G. Novikova, and Aaron B. Retish, eds. *Russia's Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914–22, 1: Russia's Revolution in Regional Perspective*, 404 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-0-89357-429-1), \$44.95.

These essays from leading international scholars address the important question of how locality affected the revolutionary experience. Drawing on new empirical research from local archives, the authors provide a kaleidoscope of regional snapshots from across Russia that highlight important themes of the revolution and contribute to the larger historiographic debates on the social and political meaning of the Russian Revolution as well as the nature of the Russian state.

Deborah Pearl. *Creating a Culture of Revolution: Workers and the Revolutionary Movement in Late Imperial Russia*, c. 300 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-0-89357-422-2), \$31.95.

*Creating a Culture of Revolution* offers a reading of the workers' movement that places circle activity and propaganda literature at the center of a developing "culture of revolution." Focusing on 4

genres of propaganda literature—revolutionary tales, expositions of political economy, poetry and song, and foreign novels in translation—Pearl's analysis of the grassroots revolutionary subculture of radical workers contributes to a re-evaluation of the broader history of the Russian revolutionary movement.

John M. Kopper and Michael Wachtel, eds. *"A Convenient Territory": Russian Literature at the Edge of Modernity. Essays in Honor of Barry Scherr*, 393 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-0-89357-452-9), \$34.95.

These articles, written by Scherr's colleagues and former students, intersect with the major fields of his work: poetry and poetics, prose of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as translation, cinema, science fiction, and sociolinguistics.



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

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

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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](mailto: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**

## Vol. 16, no. 4 (Fall 2015)



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

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Reaction by ALFRED J. RIEBER

*Review Essay*  
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#### QUESTIONS?

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