

NewsNet

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The “Red South”: Reflections on Teaching Race in the Post-Soviet Era

Jennifer Wilson, University of Pennsylvania

Last spring, I had the unique opportunity of teaching a course on the Harlem Renaissance at the Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU), unique because the course necessitated a thorough exploration of race, and that is something that unfortunately does not happen very often in Slavic Studies classrooms, despite the region’s long engagement with questions of race, ethnicity, and minority struggles (not to mention the Soviet Union’s rich critiques of American race relations during the Cold War). Even as I prepared to teach it, I felt like an impostor; I questioned whether I would know what to say about the role of race in Soviet society when I, despite having three degrees in Russian literature from some of the best universities in the world, had never had the chance to take a class that dealt with race in the Russian context.

Just as the semester was starting, Pussy Riot, as if on cue, released their first English language song. The song was titled “I Can’t Breathe,” a reference to the last words of Eric Garner, who was killed by illegal chokehold at the hands of an NYPD police officer. In the description of the video (which Pussy Riot posted on their [YouTube channel](#)), the group describes the song as an act of solidarity “for Eric [Garner] and for all those from Russia to America and around the globe who suffer from state terror.” While it was ostensibly a song

about police brutality against African-Americans in the United States, the video is replete with references to Russia’s involvement in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Not long before “I Can’t Breathe,” I also became aware of Uzbek writer Hamid Ismailov and his novel, *The Underground* (2014), in which Ismailov

represents the plight of Central Asians living in Russia through the story of 12 year-old Mboobo, a young boy living in Moscow who is the offspring of a Russian mother and an African athlete who participated in the 1980 Olympics. These two cultural events reminded me that my task was not as daunting as I had thought—Russians were in fact long accustomed to articulating

racial, ethnic, and national tensions with the language of American racial discourse. This became painfully obvious when I was introduced by the program director at RGGU with the following: “Jennifer is here to teach us about black literature and culture, of which I think we would all agree we know very little,” and just minutes later, one of my Russian students was singing the African-American spiritual “Go Down Moses.”

As inheritors of a Soviet-era classroom curriculum, which included *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* along with extensive social commentary about the evils of American racism, contemporary



Poster “Freedom American Style”



“Freedom for prisoners of Scottsboro!” Poster 1930.
Dmitry Moore (Orlov)

Russians are in fact heirs of a long and rich conversation about American race relations and the legacies of U.S. slavery, one of the few silver linings of the Cold War. Indeed, I sometimes find it easier to talk to Russians about race than Americans; they understand better than anyone the hypocrisy of American “democracy.” With that in mind, I decided to think of this teaching opportunity as rather a chance to learn along with my graduate students; over the course of the semester, we struggled to tease out the peculiarities of race in the Russian context, perhaps best exemplified by one student saying that the poet Alexander Blok “was sort of Asian,” and another student swiftly correcting her with, “Well he thought he was.”

The class title was “The Harlem Renaissance: From New York to Tashkent,” and our aim was to explore the experiences of black artists, writers, and intellectuals from Harlem who traveled to the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 30s. In the first meeting, I started with a broad overview of the visual art, music, and literature of the Harlem Renaissance. I also discussed the term itself as my students had never heard of the “Harlem Renaissance,” despite being familiar with some of its participants (I have learned since speaking with colleagues who work on the black diaspora in the 1920s and 1930s that the Harlem Renaissance is rarely taught outside of the U.S. as a cohesive artistic movement, as a real “renaissance,” despite the fact that it was a phenomenon with truly global reach).

The two subsequent units were titled: “Why Harlem?: Geographies of American Race Relations” and “Central Asia: The Soviet ‘South.’” The first of the two was aimed at helping my students understand

the cultural significance of Harlem as a neighborhood and its place within the larger New York cultural scene during the interwar era. I showed them photos and maps lined with black cultural landmarks like the Cotton Club, Lenox Avenue, and Sugar Hill. We also discussed the so-called “Niggerati Manor,” an infamous literary salon frequented by the likes of Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, and Richard Bruce Nugent. The name was coined by Hurston herself who remarked, “if they’re the literati downtown, then we must be the ‘niggerati’ uptown.” It was here that *Fire!* (1926), a very controversial literary journal was first produced; the poems and stories housed within the pages of *Fire!* flew in the face of respectability politics;

they were instead intent on depicting taboo subjects like interracial and queer desire as central facets of the black experience. The former was especially policed in the United States, where black men were sometimes lynched for just looking at a white woman. Soviet artists, as I informed my students, were well aware of the sexual paranoia regarding “race mixing” in the United States. For one, they closely monitored the Scottsboro Boys case (the Scottsboro boys were falsely accused of sexually assaulting a white female, who later recanted her statement and admitted she had been coaxed by the police into making the false report). We also discussed the modernist staging of Eugene O’Neil’s 1924 play about an interracial marriage,

“All God’s Chilin’ Got Wings” at the Tairov Theater in Moscow. I explained that the Soviet Union’s critique of anti-miscegenation laws so well-known in the U.S. that people protesting the “Little Rock Nine” were pictured with signs outside of the Arkansas capitol building that read “Race mixing = communism.” One



Little Rock Integration Protest, 1959.

US Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division digital ID ppmsca.03090



Langston Hughes in Central Asia | steppemagazine.com
Photograph courtesy of David Chioni Moore

student had this priceless reaction: "I think Americans just call anything they don't like 'Communism.'"

While discussing Harlem and its cultural significance in the black imagination, I tried to impress upon my students that Harlem was so beloved by African-Americans, it was often described in religious terms as "a promised land," the goal of all escape routes from the American South. This was tremendously important for them to understand as the American South had a pervasive influence on how African-Americans interpreted Soviet geography. Especially in light of the booming cotton industry in places like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, African-Americans like Langston Hughes saw in Central Asia a Soviet equivalent to the cotton plantations he had toured in the deep South. In an article he wrote for the NAACP journal *The Crisis*, Hughes described his travels to Central Asia as a trip to the "South under the red flag" and described Central Asians as the "colored peoples" of the Soviet Union.

I also introduced a "Legacies of the Harlem Renaissance" subunit that focused on the global reverberations of the Harlem Renaissance (in places besides the Soviet Union). I wanted to show the students how important Harlem Renaissance writers were in marrying American anti-racist discourses with anti-colonialist ones abroad. As such, I devoted a class to "Negritude," the anti-colonialist literary and ideological movement that emerged in Paris in the 1930s. In particular, I drew their attention to a volume of Negritude poetry, *Anthology of New Negro and Malagasy Poetry* (1948), the so-called manifesto of the Negritude movement. Jean Paul Sartre's essay, "Black Orpheus" [Orphée Noire], served as the volume's introduction. In that essay, Sartre makes what appear to be references to the Soviet belief that class solidarity would override racial differences, asking rhetorically, "Can the black man count on a distant white proletariat-- involved in its own struggles?" Sartre doubted, like Zora Neale Hurston and Audre Lorde would later on, that class would trump race, and instead challenged Marxists worldwide to understand the unique social identity of colonized and racialized peoples.

One of the more humorous aspects of teaching this class were the requests I got to teach any and all things related to the black experience in America. For example, one of the RGGU administrators asked if I could dedicate three weeks (of a ten-week course) to Toni Morrison. She would not let up, so I decided to assign parts of Morrison's novel *Jazz* for the unit we did on jazz music. I also assigned J.A. Rogers article "Jazz at Home." Rogers was actually one of the first Americans to write about Pushkin's identity as a person of color, including the poet in his two-volume series *World Great Men of Color*. We talked about the irony that Rogers described of jazz as protest music, by nature in opposition to capitalism, when the Soviets viewed it as synonymous with capitalism, a gateway drug to the worst ills of American society. Soviet propaganda posters even included messages like: "Today, he's playing jazz, and tomorrow he's selling out his country." Of course, the most ironic aspect of this dichotomy was that the Soviets could condemn jazz, the music of the supposed black proletariat they respected so deeply. Indeed, there was a common

double standard, by which African-Americans were seemingly exempt from certain ideological maxims. For instance, in atheist Soviet Russia, Paul Robeson was often invited to sing Negro spirituals that praised Jesus. The Rogers article also included numerous references to Russian dance, even at one point suggesting it was a precursor to jazz. My students loved it when Rogers pronounced, "Jazz has always existed. It is in the Indian war dance, the Highland

fling, the Irish jig, the Cossack dance."

At the end of the course, I assigned two works that post-dated the Harlem Renaissance; one was a June 1951 article written by Zora Neale Hurston titled "[Why the American Negro Won't Buy Communism?](#)" and the other was a chapter from Audre Lorde's collection of essays, *Sister Outsider* (1984) titled "Notes from a Trip to Russia." In the latter, Lorde chronicles her 1976 visit to the Soviet Union where she was to participate in the Asian African Writers' Conference in Tashkent. I selected these essays to show how the solidarity expressed between African-Americans and the



Animated Soviet Propaganda - American Imperialist: Mister Twister video (part 1)

Soviets during the 1920s and 30s waned over time. Throughout the semester, we had studied black intellectuals who were overwhelmingly optimistic about the Soviet project and its potential to solve the race question. Hurston and Lorde dissented sharply. Hurston's piece was especially bombastic, asking, "What the hen-fire could Russia do for us?" Hurston sensed that any sympathy the Soviet Union displayed towards African-Americans was merely a ruse to convince non-white nations, particularly in Asia, to ally themselves with Russia. Lorde's essay from *Sister Outsider* was actually my favorite of all the material I assigned that semester. Though intellectually rigorous, Lorde also allowed for some levity; at one point, exhausted from the endless events she was obliged to attend as an official delegate to the Soviet Union, Lorde wrote sarcastically, "We went later in that afternoon to another meeting of solidarity for the oppressed people of Somewhere." Lorde's impressions of Tashkent stood out the most; she writes: "If Moscow is New York, Tashkent is Accra." In drawing this parallel between Tashkent and Accra, Lorde expresses solidarity as something shared by people of color worldwide in a way that departs from the "friendship of people's"

ethos espoused by the Soviet Union, and instead imbues solidarity with the discourses of self-determination associated with the non-aligned movement.

In closing, I hope that the work I have done to draw attention to the dearth of racial and ethnic analysis in the teaching of Russian literature and cultural history, both here and in the blog series I wrote for New York University's "All the Russias," "Teaching Race in Russia," will encourage a change in how we present Slavic cultures to our students. For to ignore the richness of ethnic and racial diversity in places like Russia, is to ignore the value of difference itself, something we should all be against as scholars dedicated to the proliferation of different points-of-view.

[Jennifer Wilson](#) is a Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity in the Department of Slavic Language and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. Wilson specializes in Russian literature of the 19th century with an emphasis on the nexus of sexuality and radical political thought. Wilson is also on [The Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies \(AD-SEES\)](#) steering committee.



ASEES-MAG SUMMER CONVENTION

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

Participants are welcome to join organizers for a city tour on the morning of June 26. The conference program will begin in the afternoon of June 26 and continue through June 28.

The program will feature approximately 150 panels including about 450 presentations, and there will also be a supplementary program including a plenary, receptions, and a keynote speaker.

All convention participants, including panel speakers, chairs, discussants, and roundtable participants, MUST register by May 20.

A Public Empire: An Interview of Ekaterina Pravilova Choi Chatterjee (Cal State University, Los Angeles)

Exploring the Russian ways of thinking about property, Ekaterina Pravilova's book *A Public Empire: Property and the Quest for the Common Good in Imperial Russia*, (Princeton University Press, 2014) looks at problems of state reform and the formation of civil society, which, as the book argues, should be rethought as a process of constructing "the public" through the reform of property rights. Professor Pravilova's book was awarded the 2015 Vucinich Prize.

Are you an accidental revolutionary or did you plan to completely revise our understanding of the evolution of public and private property relations in tsarist Russia?

I've never thought about my work in such terms, but yes, it was more or less accidental. I came to this topic through the back door: my initial plan was to write a history of environmental projects in prerevolutionary Russia. While analyzing major plans aimed at reversing the flow of rivers, building dams and hydroelectric stations, I noticed that the main stumbling block for their further advancement had not been the technical impossibility of the projects themselves, but the existing legal regime of property rights. In Russia, water was private, and that principle rendered the realization of any projects—technically feasible or not—unthinkable. I was fascinated by the debates on the legal status of rivers and decided to explore this matter further. Surprisingly, the question of property dominated all discussions on the exploitation and preservation of rivers and lakes, forests and minerals. This trend suggested that something big and important was happening in the Russian system of property rights on the eve of the Revolution. So, I decided to focus on this unexplored and fascinating subject: the emergence of public domain in Imperial Russia. In other words, I wanted to study how things that had been seen as inherently private came to be viewed as public.

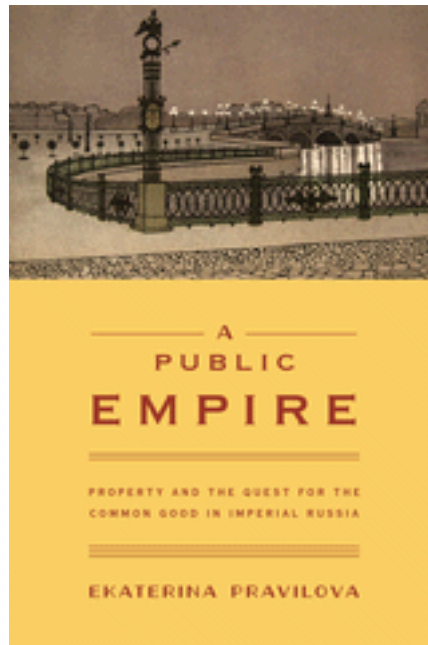
Did you have a working thesis when you first began your research on this incredibly complex subject, or were you surprised by the disruptive and provocative nature of your findings?

I did not have a working thesis when I first embarked on this project. When I began my research I realized that the conventional narrative about the insecurity of private property in Imperial Russia was inaccurate, to say the least, as my findings suggested

the opposite. Private ownership in Russia was more dominant and extensive than in most European countries: the monarchical state protected private domain, while liberals struggled to limit the power of owners. This was truly a revelation for me. It was also challenging to write against the dominant historiographical paradigm, which equated private property with freedom, whereas the history of this institution in the modern era suggests that this equation is wrong. Private property, a product of the legislative efforts of governments and enlightened monarchs, was used as a tool to solidify social support for the throne. It also represented the favorite device of colonial administrators who helped

appropriate lands through "civilizing" legal reforms, and so on. The proponents of *res publica* claimed that true freedom is possible only if individual rights are balanced with common interests. Freedom should not be individualistic.

The regime of property in Russia was inefficient, but we cannot measure the efficiency of this institution simply by considering the security of private possessions. Property is a very complex system of norms, practices and relations. My book emphasizes the fluidity of property relations and shows how the imagined border between the world of private and public things was changing over time and under the influence of various factors.



Another important goal of my work was to demonstrate that property relations involved more than two actors, namely private owners and the state. Previous works on property in Russia overlooked the presence of a third participant: society, or the public. Although the emergence of public domain signaled the emergence of civil society in Russia, the failure to institutionalize this new kind of property in law reflected the marginal political status of the public.

Did you encounter any resistance when you presented the initial findings from your book? How did criticism strengthen your work?


I received immense support from my colleagues. Some of them were more skeptical than others, but their criticism helped strengthen my argument. When you draw comparisons across areas that constitute entire fields of study, such as environmental history and the history of art and literature, there is always a danger of overlooking details or overemphasizing similarities. I remember that somebody objected to my comparing such distinct areas as forestry and literature, and this criticism pushed me to make these parallels more accurate and focused.

Given the incredibly vast range of your sources, did you devise a research methodology that enabled you to see patterns across the domains of property as disparate as art markets, literature, rivers and forests -- one that you would recommend to scholars tackling similarly ambitious themes?

My sources often guided the search. In debates on the ownership of forests I frequently came across references to discussions about monuments, the proponents of liberating rivers from the strictures of private ownership often referred to the status of city streets, and so on. Modern conflicts around public domain and private property rights also suggested further directions for inquiry. It was fascinating to see the historical roots of contemporary debates on historical preservation, copyright, and environmental protection, and to even trace back the vocabulary of modern conceptions of property. Not all of my chapters ultimately got into the book because I wanted to keep it within reasonable limits. The world of *res publica* in Imperial Russia was bigger than the one that my book presents.

In fact, the gap between these seemingly disparate areas - nature, art, and literature - is not all that broad. The central protagonists of my book are “experts”—engineers, art historians, archaeologists, and foresters—who played key roles in advancing notions of the public good. Each of these groups had its own ethos, but ultimately their strategies of self-organization and public activity were quite similar. I read their main journals and the materials of professional congresses and meetings, and tracked the activity of unions and the development of important scholarly or scientific ideas. Interestingly, the most critical concepts that evolved during this period turned out to be connected to understandings of the public interest. For instance, scholars formulated criteria for “national literature,” “art,” and “historical heritage,” and defined the life cycle of ecosystems and their relation to human society. All of these newly discovered entities were supposed to become part of the public domain, society’s main asset.

I also worked with the archival materials of governmental institutions



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that considered legislative initiatives coming from the professional organizations. Yet a book concentrating on laws and academic debates would have been one-sided. In the center of each chapter I have thus placed at least one story that helps anchor my argument and show how changes in the ideas and practices of property relations affected the lives of real people. The book opens with the case of Count Kutaisov, jester to Paul I and owner of the fishing monopoly that Alexander I expropriated. It tells the stories of Princess Tenisheva, a wealthy collector of Russian antiquities, and the peasant Evgeny Briagin, a talented restorer of icons; both the princess and the peasant were persecuted for violating the sanctity of church property. I also tried to explain the meaning of Lev Tolstoy's surrender of his copyright and show that his actions make sense if we consider them in the context of debates on public property. One of the chapters discusses Ivan Goncharov's protest against the violation of privacy by champions of public interest who wanted to access the private papers of great Russian writers immediately after their deaths. The shrinkage of the private sphere was one of the consequences of the growing public domain.

Can you tell us how your work has been enriched by using an explicitly comparative framework of analysis?

The book refutes narratives of Russia's exceptionalism by putting this story in the context of contemporary European ideas and practices. The concept of public property had come from Roman law, was picked up by the authors of the French *Code Civil* in 1804, and then penetrated other pieces of legislation. In the late nineteenth century this idea received new attention due to the growing interest in social law and policy, a liberal alternative to leftist ideas. I reveal that Russian thinkers followed European debates closely, and their ways of thinking about property often paralleled European intellectual trends. However, bureaucrats in the central government thought that there could be no "public" outside of the state and that society could not be a subject of rights on its own. Intellectually, the Russian idea of property was in no way inferior to other concepts of property in circulation at the time. Yet the political regime that rested on the institution of private property was simply incompatible with *res publica*.

Comparison was indispensable for this project because it helped me show that a single pattern for property relations is unthinkable. The emergence of public domain represented, perhaps, the most central

trend in the development of property, state, and society in Europe and elsewhere during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But within this trend one can find many variations, and the Russian case represents one of them.

When I read your brilliant book about the changing concepts of public property, I felt that it was particularly relevant in the context of climate change and globalization. How does your work contribute to competing theories about the evolution of "commons" and public domains?

The works of Carol Rose and Elinor Ostrom, the main theoreticians of the commons today, were immensely important for my project. I share their idea that private property is not always the best and the most effective ways of owning resources. The proponents of public domain in Imperial Russia thought that society was able to manage resources collectively, and could actually do better than private owners in preserving public domain for future generations.

Ekaterina Pravilova is a Professor of History specializing in 19th century Imperial Russia at Princeton University.



A Public Empire: Property and the Quest for the Common Good in Imperial Russia also won the George L. Mosse Prize 2015, American Historical Association; the 2015 Historia Nova Prize, Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation and Academic Studies Press; and was awarded Honorable Mention for the

2015 J. Willard Hurst Book Prize, Law and Society Association.



Choi Chatterjee is Professor of History specializing in Russian and Soviet History, History of Globalization, Cultural History, Gender History at Cal State Los Angeles.

Unique Academic Venture: the University Consortium

Julie Newton, University of Oxford (UK)

The recent sharp deterioration of Russia-West relations prompted six universities in the United States, Europe and Russia – Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO), National Research University-Higher School of Economics in Moscow (HSE), St Antony's College at University of Oxford, Freie Universität in Berlin, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University – to form a unique academic venture, called the [University Consortium](#) (UC). This exceptional program of academic exchange pools the strengths of its partners and jointly trains a new generation of students, future faculty and potential policy-makers across all three regions.

Our inter-regional academic network promotes dialogue, research and policy outreach on Euro-Atlantic issues critical to addressing the crisis in Russia-West relations. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Carnegie Corporation of New York (our funding body) and to the logistical support of St Antony's College, Oxford (our host institution), the University Consortium offers extraordinary educational, travel and research opportunities for advanced students and faculty.

Together, our six institutions aim to build a new, distinct Euro-Atlantic network of students and faculty who will gain greater mutual understanding through intensive engagement with each other across our three geographic regions. Through our joint teaching, student and faculty exchanges, conferences and written output, the UC sheds constructive, new light on the competing narratives that divide Russia and the West, particularly on the sources (domestic and international, material and ideational) of those divisions. In the process, we seek to identify potential areas of common ground and generate innovative and accessible policy-oriented ideas to enhance prospects for renewed Euro-Atlantic cooperation that is indispensable for tackling the increasingly difficult global challenges of the 21st century.

As Columbia University Emeritus Professor Robert Legvold recently declared: '[The University Consortium] is not merely important as an enterprise for these [six] institutions...but as a collaborative en-

terprise, I think it is critical to our respective countries. In the United States and Europe..., there is now a deficit of expertise on Russia...and we are paying a price for that now. This is the single most important enterprise in addressing that problem.'

Seeking to help overcome confrontation between Russia and the West, the Consortium is also on the frontlines of addressing the crisis in Russian area studies. With this double objective in mind, the UC has devised four innovative ways to supplement traditional academic training for future generations of American, European and Russian academics, policy-makers, journalists and other elites.

1. Consortium Modules

This unique program is at the heart of the Consortium's work. During each semi-annual Module, five selected Consortium Fellows (Master's students in Russian/ Eurasian studies) travel to a host UC institution where they are joined by a Visiting Lecturer from another UC institution for one week. The five Consortium Fellows, along with students and faculty from the host institution, participate in short courses and seminars taught (or co-taught) by the Visiting Lecturer. In addition, UC Fellows participate in selected host-institution courses, and present their current research at the Consortium's semi-annual Student Webinar, streamed live across our entire network. Finally, the Module offers each Consortium Fellow and Visiting Lecturer dedicated time for research and interviews at the host institution and its city. The net



Davis Module Attendees, Feb. 2016

result of each Module creates an ever-expanding UC network of students and faculty across the Euro—Atlantic who have a much deeper understanding of one another and the challenges in relations among their countries than their predecessors did.

Our Modules encourage students to ‘think big.’ Rather than focus narrowly on their own topics or puzzles, Consortium Fellows consider their research within the broader context of Euro-Atlantic relations. In this way, they can deepen our understanding of the causes and nature of the crisis between Russia and the West and identify innovative ways for overcoming it.

2. Annual Conferences

Annual Conferences bring together our six institutions, along with the European Leadership Network (ELN) comprised of policy elites, officials or law-makers and think-tank members from all three regions. Participants include UC Principals, UC Advisors, involved faculty, selected students, post-docs, ELN members and think-tank elites. Our conferences in Moscow (2016) and New York (2017) will consummate the year’s work and inspire further collective cooperation and publication.

3. Internal Lectures and Seminar Programs

The University Consortium is committed to increasing the number of lectures and seminars at each of our member institutions on issues concerning Russia-West relations. These events, benefiting both students and faculty, supplement our universities’ regular curricula in order to support the work being done inside individual institutions, which in turn strengthens our joint work. New events will be scheduled throughout the year and across our network of member institutions.

4. Joint-Research Grant Program

Grants are available to fund and facilitate research trips that promote joint – especially inter-regional—research projects (for publication and/or web posting) among our members, including UC faculty, graduate or post-doctoral students and policy-elites.

Activities to Date

The University Consortium moves fast. In its first six months, it hosted three events: two Consortium Modules (last November at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute [[read opening remarks here](#)], and at Harvard University’s Davis Center in early February 2016) and an official Launch Conference (St Antony’s College, Oxford in February 2016).

At the Harriman Module, Professor Dmitry

Suslov of the Higher School of Economics delivered several lectures on Russian perceptions of relations with the West over the last 26 years and Russia’s understandings of the post-Cold War order. Offering first-hand exposure to Moscow’s side of the story, Suslov also co-taught a Master’s level seminar with Harriman Director Alexander Cooley and held daily office hours. This kind of intellectual immersion allowed students and faculty to grasp the real sources of each other’s foreign policies, correct the false narratives so prevalent in each of our countries, compare their countries’ disagreements, and identify points of commonality. ‘It was [an] amazing opportunity to get a more nuanced understanding of different arguments...’ (Ivan Loshkarev, MGIMO).

The Harriman Module also held the UC’s first ‘Student Webinar,’ at which our Fellows shared their research and connected online with peers across our six other institutions. As UC Fellow, Ola McLees (Oxford), said about the Webinar, ‘I was quite amazed by the degree to which incorporating technology expands both the number of parties involved and the quality of debate.’ By the Module’s close, UC membership increased by 300% over original projections.

Three months later, our second Module at the Davis Center presented lectures by MGIMO Professor Andrey Sushentsov. Five Consortium Fellows from MGIMO, HSE, Freie, Oxford and Columbia joined Dr Sushentsov for an intensive week of seminar courses, one keynote address, and a multitude of addresses by outside speakers. As a new initiative, the Davis Center and the UC invited five other students (from Stanford, Indiana University, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) to attend the Module. These ten students, along with the Davis Center’s students, created a critical mass, generating lively, in-depth discussions. An historian, Dr Sushentsov offered lectures, stressing historical sources of Russia’s ambivalent identity and age-old vagaries in its perceptions of the West. In



Students participating in Harriman Module, Nov. 2015

other lectures, he assessed Russia's current confrontation with Turkey, Russian strategy in Syria, and its crisis with Ukraine. The Module also featured lectures by other speakers, including Professor Rawi Abdelal (Davis Director and HBS), Dr Alexandra Vacroux (Davis), Professor Tim Colton (Davis), Professor Robert Legvold (Columbia), Dr Sam Charap (IISS), Dr Yuri Zhukov (U Michigan), Dr Uval Weber (HSE) and Dr Vladislav Inozemtsev. Finally, the week highlighted the UC's second Student Webinar, at which our five students presented their work to the Davis Center and those connected online in Moscow, Berlin, Oxford and New York. In short, students reported that the Module was an extraordinary experience, deepening Western students' grasp of the complexities of Russian perceptions and interests, while also enhancing Russian students' understanding of US (and European) interests and perceptions. UC membership continues to climb, while our students continue dialogue via the online 'UC Forum.' Our next UC Module will take place at Freie Universität in Berlin in November 2016.

Third, the UC Launch Conference at St Antony's College took place on 26-27 February: 'A Wasted 25 Years? Russia, the United States and the EU: Patterns of Confrontation and Cooperation.' Dr Julie Newton (UC Principal Investigator) set the scene by

introducing the Consortium's mission and vision, followed by Robert Legvold's keynote address, entitled 'False Stories and the Damage They Do.' The next day, Dr Andrey Kortunov (RIAC), Prof Vladimir Baranovsky (IMEMO), Prof Richard Sakwa (U of Kent) and Prof Deborah Larson (UCLA) discussed misperceptions and missteps on the path to building Greater/Wider Europe over the last 25 years. Then, it show-cased the UC's hallmark 'Student Webinar,' at which four students analyzed their research topics within the context of Euro-Atlantic relations and took Tweeted questions from Berlin and Moscow. The third panel, consisting of Prof Roy Allison, Dr Dmitry Suslov, Dr Natasha Kuhrt, and Dr Mikhail Troitskiy (in absentia) looked for ways to broaden the security agenda by identifying areas for cooperation and possible synergies for the future. Finally, Prof Legvold offered an elegant summary of the entire conference, which many participants praised as 'unusually interesting' and an 'important' call to arms for the UC and the next generation of students to promote serious dialogue, advance Russian studies, and 'think big'. Our next major event will be the Annual Conference (Moscow), presenting our cumulative research on the theme, 'unpacking competing narratives.'

During this period of Russia-West confrontation when our governments have closed off most venues for serious dialogue, the University Consortium has an important role to play. As a new forum for engaging scholars, think-tank elites, former officials and some current officials across the Euro-Atlantic area, the Consortium is distinctly policy-relevant. But as this article suggests, its main focus is academic. By working to train a new generation of scholars who better understand the sources of the other side's behaviour, the Consortium will deepen area studies knowledge of each other which is indispensable over the long term for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of Euro-Atlantic policies in all our countries.

Julie Newton is Visiting Fellow of Russian and Eurasian Studies, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford (UK). She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of International and Comparative Politics at the American University of Paris and Associate Professor for the graduate programme taught jointly by the American University of Paris and the Institut Catholique.

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

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.

Bill J. Darden. *Studies in Phonological Theory and Historical Linguistics*, 442 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-0-89357-446-8), \$34.95.

In this book showcasing the fruits of his 40-year career teaching Slavic linguistics and phonological theory, Bill Darden turns to Slavic history to marshal theoretical arguments in phonology, and uses phonological theory to help explain phenomena in the history of Russian. In pure historical linguistics, he offers possible solutions for one of the biggest problems in Balto-Slavic historical linguistics—the reconstruction of the Balto-Slavic verb and the sources of that system in Indo-European.



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cfa.global-politics.org/apply2016/ or contact our student advisor
Sabine Pag (sabine.pag@fu-berlin.de).



New Staff

Margaret Manges started as the ASEES Convention Manager in January 2016. She has worked in event planning and management since 2001. Her clients have included Hill House Association, PNC Bank, Sarah Heinz House, The Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, The Heinz Endowment, The Pittsburgh Foundation and many others. She received her B.A. from Ohio University in French and Business and studied International Business at Jean Moulin University in Lyon, France. Please contact Margaret for all issues relating to the ASEES Annual Convention.

Dmitry Tartakovsky became the Managing Editor of *Slavic Review* in February 2016. He has a BS in history from Bradley University, an MA in Russian and Balkan history from Arizona State University, and a PhD in Russian and Balkan history from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His prior work has included stints as political officer for the Department of State, Balkan analyst for the Department of Defense, and south Slavic specialist for the Slavic Reference

Service at the UIUC Library. Please contact Dmitry with any questions regarding the editing and publishing of *Slavic Review* or advertising in the journal.

Theodora "Kelly" Trimble is ASEES' 2016 Convention Program Coordinator; she handles the annual convention proposal submissions and the program changes and edits. Trimble is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation explores the celebrity icon in Soviet culture during the Khrushchev Thaw. She has a M.A. in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies from the University of Michigan, and a dual B.A. in Slavic & East European Studies and Russian from West Virginia University. She is the Resident Director for the University of Pittsburgh's Project GO program, an initiative that fosters language study for ROTC students.

Personages

ACLS is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Collaborative Research Fellowships. Among them is ASEES member **Mario Biagioli**, who, with legal scholar Alain Pottage, explore the use of textual and graphical representation, models, and forensic tools within modern patent law; the scholars argue that these practices, techniques, and devices worked to conflate the more elusive idea of discovery into that of invention, and thus create the notion of invention as an intangible form of property.

The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages presented **Nancy Condee** with the 2015 AATSEEL Award for Distinguished Service at an award ceremony in January.

A conference, "Here I am / I inhabit my own life! Poetry, prose and epistolary writings of **Anna Frajlich**", will take place on October 24-25, 2016. Participants should email frajlich.konferencjaUR@onet.pl before May 30, 2016.

Frajlich's poetry, articles and essays have been published in various journals in Poland, the US, and Europe. Frajlich has been awarded with a Koscielski Foundation

of Switzerland literary prize and a Literary Prize from W. & N. Turzanski Foundation. She has also received the Knight Cross of the Order of Merit and a title of honorary Ambassador of town of Szczecin. Frajlich is an author of 12 books of poetry, one collection of short prose stories (*Laboratorium*) and essays (*Czesław Miłosz. Lekcje*). Two of her poetry volumes are bilingual: *Between Dawn and the Wind: Selected Poetry* and *Le vent, à nouveau me cherche*.

Barbara Skinner was awarded an NEH Fellowship for a yearlong leave in 2016-17 to work on her book on the confessional history of the western Russian Empire in the early 19th century.

The Translator's Doubts: Vladimir Nabokov and the Ambiguity of Translation by **Julia Trubikhina** has won The Samuel Schuman Prize for the Best First Book on Nabokov. The prize honors one of the founding members of the Nabokov Society and the greatest benefactor to Nabokov Studies during its lean years. The prize is awarded every two years.

ASEEES Prizes Call for Submissions

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL PRIZE COMPETITIONS:

For full rules and complete details about all prizes, please see <http://aseees.org/programs/aseees-prizes>

- The copyright date inside the book must be 2015*
- The book must be a monograph, preferably by a single author, or by no more than two authors
- Authors may be of any nationality as long as the work is originally published in English in the United States*
- Textbooks, collections, translations, bibliographies and reference works are ineligible
- Works may deal with any area of Eastern Europe, Russia or Eurasia*
- Additional eligibility requirements unique to each prize competition are listed below

*Except where otherwise indicated

Nominating Instructions

- Send one copy of eligible monograph to each Committee member AND to the ASEEES main office. Nominations must be received no later than **April 15**.
- Fill out the [Book Prize nomination form](#)
- Mark submissions clearly with the name of the prize(s).

WAYNE S. VUCINICH BOOK PRIZE

Established in 1983, the Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize, sponsored by ASEEES and the Stanford University Center for Russian and East European Studies, is awarded for the most important contribution to Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in any discipline of the humanities or social sciences published in English in the US in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to works of scholarship in any discipline of the social sciences or humanities (including literature, the arts, film, etc.). Policy analyses, however scholarly, cannot be considered.
- Authors may be of any nationality as long as the work is published in the United States and originally published in English.

The winner of the Vucinich Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Mitchell Orenstein, U of Pennsylvania, 745 Williams Hall, 255 S 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
- Choi Chatterjee, Dept of History, California State U, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90032
- Nancy Condee, Director Global Studies Center (UCIS),

U of Pittsburgh, 4103 Wesley W. Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

- Stephen Hutchings, Russian Studies Dept, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, U of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK

USC BOOK PRIZE IN LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES

The USC Book Prize in Literary and Cultural Studies, established in 2009 and sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Southern California, is awarded for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe or Eurasia in the fields of literary and cultural studies in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to works of scholarship in literary and cultural studies, including studies in the visual arts, cinema, music, and dance.

The winner of the USC Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Lilya Kaganovsky, U of Illinois, Slavic Languages and Literatures, 707 S. Mathews Ave., 3080 Foreign Languages Building MC 170, Urbana, IL 61801-3643
- Galya Diment, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Smith Hall, M264, Box 353580, U of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3580
- Cristina Vatulescu, NYU Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Island, A6 (Humanities) building, P.O. Box 129188, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E or (courier mailing address), NYU Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Island, A6 (Humanities) Building, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E

REGINALD ZELNIK BOOK PRIZE IN HISTORY

The Reginald Zelnik Book Prize in History, established in 2009 and sponsored by the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, is awarded for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe or Eurasia in the field of history in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to works of scholarship in history

The winner of the Zelnik Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Michael Khodarkovsky, Loyola U Chicago, Dept of History, 1032 W. Sheridan Rd, Room 507, Chicago, IL 60660-1537
- Norman Naimark, 930 Lathrop Place, Stanford, CA

94305

- Glennys Young, Box 353650, Jackson School of International Studies, U of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

DAVIS CENTER BOOK PRIZE IN POLITICAL & SOCIAL STUDIES

The Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies, established in 2008 and sponsored by the Kathryn W. and Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, is awarded for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eurasia, or Eastern Europe in anthropology, political science, sociology, or geography in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to works of scholarship in anthropology, political science, sociology, or geography, and also to social science works that cross strict disciplinary boundaries

The winner of the Davis Center Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Pauline Jones Luong, U of Michigan, Dept of Political Science, 505 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
- Conor O'Dwyer, Dept of Political Science, U of Florida, PO Box 117325, Gainesville, FL 32611-7325
- Olga Shevchenko, 85 Mission Park Drive, Williamstown, MA 01267

MARSHALL D. SHULMAN BOOK PRIZE

The Marshall D. Shulman Book Prize, established in 1987 and sponsored by the Harriman Institute of Columbia University, is awarded for an outstanding monograph dealing with the international relations, foreign policy, or foreign-policy decision-making of any of the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe published in 2015. The prize is dedicated to the encouragement of high quality studies of the international behavior of the countries of the former Communist Bloc.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- Works must be about international behavior of the countries of the former Communist Bloc.

The winner of the Shulman Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Kimberly Marten, Harriman Institute, Columbia U, 420 West 118th Street, 12th floor, New York, NY 10027
- Alexander Cooley, Harriman Institute, Columbia U, 420 W. 118th St, 1214 IAB, New York NY 10027
- Laura Henry, Bowdoin College, 18 Hubbard Hall, Brunswick, Maine 04011

ED A HEWETT BOOK PRIZE

The Ed A Hewett Book Prize, established in 1994 and sponsored by the University of Michigan Center for Rus-

sian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, is awarded for an outstanding monograph on the political economy of Russia, Eurasia and/or Eastern Europe, published in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- Works must be on the political economy of Russia, Eurasia and/or Eastern Europe.

The winner of the Hewett Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Andrew Barnes, Dept. of Political Science, 302 Bowman Hall, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242
- Carol S. Leonard, U of Oxford, St. Antony's College, 62 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JF, UK . E-books preferred - carol.leonard@sant.ox.ac.uk
- Jessica Pisano, Dept of Politics, New School for Social Research, 6 East 16th Street, Suite 719, New York, NY10003

BARBARA JELAVICH BOOK PRIZE

The Barbara Jelavich Book Prize, established in 1995 and sponsored by the Jelavich estate, is awarded for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- Authors must be scholars who are citizens or permanent residents of North America.
- The competition is open to works on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or 19th- and 20th-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history.

The winner of the Jelavich Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Emily Greble, Institut za savremenu istoriju, Trg Nikole Pašića 11, Belgrade, Serbia (email): egreble@ccny.cuny.edu
- Prof. Laurence Cole, Fachbereich Geschichte, Universität Salzburg, Rudolfskai 42, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria, (email): Laurence.Cole@sbg.ac.at

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Dues are structured at several levels, including:

- Reduced Dues for scholars living and working in Eastern Europe/Eurasia and earning less than US\$30,000 per year.
- Regular + Joint membership
- Affiliate + Joint Membership
- Student
- Institutional
- Two-year (at each level above)
- Lifetime

- Paula M. Pickering, Dept of Government, College of William and Mary, Morton Hall, Room 10, 100 Ukrop Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185, (email): , pmpick@wm.edu

*The committee would happily accept PDF copies of books emailed to the members directly.

KULCZYCKI BOOK PRIZE IN POLISH STUDIES

The Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies (formerly the ASEES Orbis Book Prize), established in 1996 and sponsored by the Kulczycki family, former owners of the Orbis Books Ltd. of London, England, is awarded for the best book in any discipline, on any aspect of Polish affairs, published in 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- Only works originally published in English, outside of Poland, are eligible
- The book must be a monograph predominantly on Polish studies, preferably by a single author, or by no more than two authors.
- Preference will be given to works by first-time authors.
- The competition is open to works in any discipline, dealing with any aspect of Polish affairs.
- Previous winners of this prize are ineligible.

The winner of the Kulczycki Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Tomasz Kamusella, Centre for Transnational History, School of History, U of St Andrews, St Katharine's Lodge, The Scores, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AR, Scotland, UK
- Joanna Nizynska, Dept of Slavic Languages and East European Cultures, Indiana U , The Global and International Studies Building 4050, 355 N Jordan Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47405-7103
- Nathan Wood, Dept of History, U of Kansas, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS 66045

W. BRUCE LINCOLN BOOK PRIZE

The W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize, sponsored by Mary Lincoln, is awarded biennially (in even numbered years) for an author's first published monograph or scholarly synthesis that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia's past, published in 2014 or 2015.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- The book must be an author's first published monograph or work of synthesis.
- The published copyright date should be 2014 or 2015).
- It must be published in English and in North America.
- The geographic area of study is broadly defined as the territories of the former imperial Russian state

and the Soviet Union. The book may deal with any period of history.

- Books that have received other prizes are eligible.
- Scholarly merit, originality, and felicity of style will be the main criteria for selection.

The winner of the Lincoln Book Prize will be chosen by:

- Heather Coleman, Dept of History and Classics, 2-28 Tory Building, U of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4, CANADA
- Barbara Allen, La Salle U, History Dept, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19141
- Russell Martin, History Dept, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001, cass@westminster.edu

GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The ASEES Graduate Student Essay Prize was established in 2006 and is awarded for an outstanding essay by a graduate student in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. The winner of the competition receives free roundtrip domestic airfare to and room at the ASEES Annual Convention and an honorary ASEES membership in 2017.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- ASEES Regional Affiliates and Institutional Members are invited to hold their own competitions for best essay among their graduate students, and submit

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the winning paper to the ASEES Grad Student Prize Committee.

- Essay author must be a graduate student and must have written the essay in English while in a graduate program.
- Essays can be any of several formats: Expanded versions of conference papers; Graduate level seminar papers; Master's Thesis Chapters; Dissertation Chapters

NOMINATING INSTRUCTIONS

- Essays should be submitted by the Chairs of the Regional Affiliates or the primary or secondary representatives of the Institutional Members. Graduate students whose institution is not an ASEES institutional member or is not holding a competition this year, are advised to check the rules for their regional competition. Students cannot self-nominate their papers/must go through the proper nominating procedures.
- Submitter must clearly indicate the format of the essay submitted and provide an abstract.
- Essays should have a minimum word count of 7,500 and a maximum word count of 14,000 (25 to 50 pages approximately) inclusive of footnotes and bibliography. Submissions must be double-spaced and include footnotes or endnotes.
- Essays should be emailed to Mary Arnstein, Communications Coordinator, at newsnet@pitt.edu and to all members of the prize committee.

Deadline for submissions: June 1.

The winner of the student essay prize will be chosen by:

- Elena Prokhorova, College of William and Mary; evprok@wm.edu
- Vasiliki Neofotistos, SUNY Buffalo, neofotis@buffalo.edu
- Victoria Smolkin-Rothrock, Wesleyan U, vsmolkin@wesleyan.edu

ROBERT C. TUCKER/STEPHEN F. COHEN DISSERTATION PRIZE

The Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize, established in 2006 and sponsored by the KAT Charitable Foundation, is awarded annually (if there is a distinguished submission) for an outstanding English-language doctoral dissertation in Soviet or Post-Soviet politics and history in the tradition practiced by Robert C. Tucker and Stephen F. Cohen. The dissertation must be defended at an American or Canadian university, and must be completed during the calendar year prior to the award.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- The dissertation must be written in English and de-

fended at a university in the United States or Canada;

- The dissertation must be completed and defended during the 2015 calendar year;
- The dissertation's primary subject and analytical purpose must be in the realm of the history of domestic politics, as broadly understood in academic or public life, though it may also include social, cultural, economic, international or other dimensions. The dissertation must focus primarily on Russia (though the topic may also involve other former Soviet republics) during one or more periods between January 1918 and the present.

NOMINATING INSTRUCTIONS

- A nomination will consist of a detailed letter from the dissertation's main faculty supervisor explaining the ways in which the work is outstanding in both its empirical and interpretive contributions, along with an abstract of 700-1000 words, written by the candidate, specifying the sources and general findings of the research. A faculty supervisor may nominate no more than one dissertation a year.
- By May 15 faculty supervisors should send each committee member listed above their letter and the 700-1000-word abstract. (Candidates may also initiate the nomination, but it must come from their advisors.) The committee will read this material and then request copies of the dissertations that best meet the criteria, as defined in the statement above.

Nominations must be received no later than May 15

The winner of the Dissertation Prize will be chosen by:

- Michael David-Fox, Georgetown U; md672@georgetown.edu
- Andrew Jenks, California State U, Long Beach; Andrew.Jenks@csulb.edu
- Juliet Johnson, McGill U (Canada); juliet@mcgill.ca

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Please consider submitting articles to be published in future NewsNets. Articles are typically brief essays on contemporary issues or matters of broad professional interest. They can include discussions of new research, institutions, resources etc. NewsNet is not a venue for extensive research essays; most cover articles are 2,500 words in length. We encourage members, including graduate students, who are interested in proposing a NewsNet article to contact the Communications Coordinator, Mary Arnstein (newsnet@pitt.edu) or the Chair of the ASEES Communications Advisory Committee, Karen Petrone (petrone@uky.edu).



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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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Additional Prizes

2016 AWSS HELDT PRIZES

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies invites nominations for the 2016 Heldt Prizes, awarded for works of scholarship. To be eligible for nomination, all books and articles for the three prize categories must be published between 15 April 2015 and 15 April 2016. Nominations for the 2016 prizes will be accepted for the following categories:

Best book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian (SEEE) women's studies;

Best article in SEEE women's studies;

Best book by a woman in any area of SEEE studies.

One may nominate individual books for more than one category, and more than one item for each category. Articles included in collections as well as journals are eligible for the "best article" prize, but they must be nominated individually. The prizes will be awarded at the AWSS meeting at the ASEES Convention in Washington, DC, in November 2016.

To nominate any work, please send or request that the publisher send one copy to each of the [four members of the Prize committee](#) by 15 May 2016:

For article submissions, you may send a pdf to the Heldt Prize committee chair at ehemenway@luc.edu for distribution to the rest of the committee.

2016 AWSS GRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE

The prize is awarded to the author of a chapter or article-length essay on any topic in any field or area of Slavic/East European/Central Asian Studies written by a woman, or on a topic in Slavic/East European/Central Asian Women's/Gender Studies written by a woman or a man. This competition is open to current doctoral students and to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2015-2016. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2015-2016. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no longer than 50 double-spaced pages, including reference matter, and in English (quoted text in any other language should be translated). Completed submissions must be received by September 1, 2016. Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the three members of the Prize Committee as email attachments. Please address any questions to the chair of the prize committee, Karen Petrone, petrone@uky.edu

CENTER FOR AUSTRIAN STUDIES BOOK PRIZE AND DISSERTATION PRIZE

The Center for Austrian Studies will award a Center for Austrian Studies Book Prize and a Dissertation Prize in 2016. To be eligible for the 2016 CAS prize competitions, a book must have been published (or a dissertation defended) between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015. Authors must be citizens or legal residents of the US or Canada. Eligible works may be from any discipline in the humanities, social sciences, or fine arts. The subject matter may deal with contemporary Austria, contemporary Austria's relationship with Central Europe and the EU, or the history, society, and culture of Austria and the lands of Central and Eastern Europe with a common Habsburg heritage. The language must be English. Multi-authored studies or multi-author collections of essays are not eligible. Each prize carries a cash award of \$1,500.

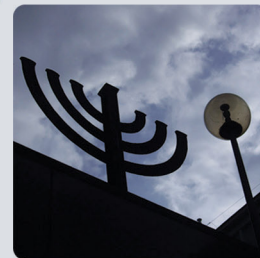
Send 5 copies of each book (or 3 copies of each dissertation) to: Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota, Attention: CAS Book (or Dissertation) Prize Committee, 314 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis MN 55455 by May 2, 2016.

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[THE POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER AWARD](#)

The Graduate Student Research Paper Award recognizes a substantial original research paper on Polish-American history and culture produced by a young scholar in the humanities or social sciences. Submissions should be emailed to: i.korga@pilsudski.org before April 15th, 2016.

In addition to the recognition by PAHA and a potential paper publication offer from the interdisciplinary, refereed scholarly journal *The Polish American Studies*, the winner will receive a \$1,000 travel grant to present the paper at the PAHA 2017 Annual Meeting. The conference is held in conjunction with the American Historical Association.

Applicants must be current graduate students. In addition to the paper, any submission must contain: graduate student's short biographic note, 250-word abstract, and one letter of reference.

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES 2016 GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The Eighth Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize competition for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter written in English by a graduate student in any social science or humanities discipline on a Romanian subject. The 2016 prize, consisting of \$300, will be presented at the ASEES Convention. The competition is open to current M.A. and doctoral students or to those who defended dis-

sertations in the academic year 2015–2016. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2015–2016. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Essays/chapters should be between 25 and 50 pages double spaced, including reference matter. Expanded versions of conference papers are also acceptable if accompanied by a description of the panel and the candidate's conference paper proposal. Candidates should clearly indicate the format of the essay submitted. If you have questions, contact the chair of the committee, Dr. Peter Gross at [Gross, at pgross@utk.edu](mailto:pgross@utk.edu).

Please email a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the [four members of the Prize Committee](#) by July 1, 2016.

[SLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION AWARD](#)

During the ASEES conference in November, the Slovak Studies Association will award its prize for the best article or chapter about Slovakia in the humanities and social sciences published in 2012 or later. The works must be in English, but they can be published anywhere in the world. The publication's author or authors must be SSA members. Submissions must be hard copies, unless the work appears only in electronic form. The deadline for postmarking submissions is 30 April 2016. Send entries to Daniel E. Miller, Department of History, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514.

FIRST BOOK SUBVENTION PROGRAM

Congratulations to our First Book Subvention Program grant winners:

Larisa Jasarevic of the University of Chicago for *Health and Wealth on the Bosnian Market: Intimate Debt* (Indiana University Press)

Chris Miller of Yale University for *The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy: Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of the Soviet Union* (University of North Carolina Press)

Andrei Cusco of the State University of Moldova for *Between Nation and Empire: Russian and Romanian Competing Visions of Bessarabia in the Second Half of the 19th and Early 20th Century* (Central European University Press)

ASEES is now accepting applications for dedicated funds for subvention of books by first-time authors who have secured publishing contracts. Awards will be made on a competitive basis, with funds paid directly to the press. Applications are invited from all disciplines.

DEADLINE: September 1

Eligibility and application guidelines for publishers can be found [here](#).

Publications

[*The Canon of Croatian Poetry, 1450-2000: Over 200 Croatian Poems with Facing English Translations*](#) was recently published by Edwin Mellen Press, with Ivo Šoljan and Vinka Šoljan as editors and translators. This volume offers a panorama of Croatian poetry written over the last five centuries. Touching on the different subjects and shifting fashions of poetic creativity throughout Croatia's turbulent history, this poetry reveals the spirit of its people. The poems are clustered chronologically into chapters representing seven literary periods: The Renaissance, The Baroque, Classicism, Romanticism, Croatian Modernism, Echoes of the Two World Wars, and The Postmodern-Contemporary Period. This impressive artistic achievement fills a lacuna in Croatian poetry translation and scholarship.

[*The Complete Folktales of A. N. Afanas'ev, Volume II, edited by Jack V. Haney*](#), recently was published by University Press of Mississippi. The folktales of A.N. Afanas'ev represent the largest single collection of folktales in any European language and perhaps in the world. Widely regarded as the Russian Grimm, Afanas'ev collected folktales from throughout the Russian Empire. Up to now, there has been no complete English-language version of the folktales.

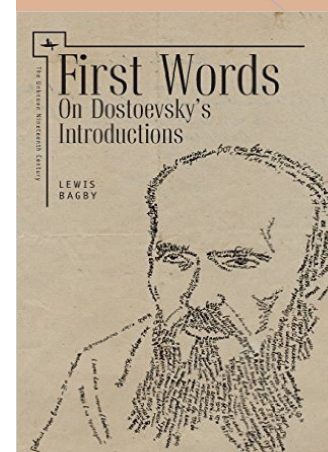
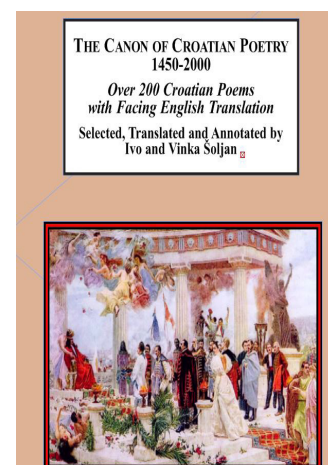
This translation is based on L. G. Barag and N. V. Novikov's edition, widely regarded as the authoritative Russian-language edition. The present edition includes commentaries to each tale as well as its international classification number. A third planned volume will complete the first English-language set.

[*"A Convenient Territory:" Russian Literature at the Edge of Modernity Essays in Honor of Barry Scherr*](#), was edited by John M. Kopper and Michael Wachtel and published by Slavica Publishers in 2015.

Over his career, Barry Scherr has contributed prolifically and insightfully to Russian literary scholarship. His work is remarkable both for its depth and its breadth. His book on Russian poetry covered the entire verse tradition and placed him at the forefront of scholarship on Russian poetics. In the decades since that book appeared, he has continued to explore questions of verse form both within the Russian tradition and from a comparative perspective. He has also written widely on Russian prose of the early twentieth century, from science fiction to socialist realism. His publications include incisive essays about translation, about cinema, about Russian-Jewish writers.

The present collection is a chance for many who have benefited from Scherr's wisdom to pay him back in kind. The articles, written by colleagues and former students, intersect with the major fields of his work: poetry and poetics, prose of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as translation, cinema, science fiction, and sociolinguistics.

[*First Words: On Dostoevsky's Introductions*](#) by Lewis Bagby has recently been published by Academic Studies Press. Dostoevsky attached introductions to his most challenging narratives, including *Notes from the House of the Dead*, *Notes from Underground*, *The Devils*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, and "A Gentle Creature." Despite his clever attempts to call his readers' attention to these introductions, they have been neglected as an object of study for over 150 years. That oversight is rectified in *First Words*, the first systematic study of Dostoevsky's introductions. Using Genette's typology of prefaces and Bakhtin's notion of multiple voices, Bagby reveals just how important Dostoevsky's first words are to his fiction. Dostoevsky's ruses, verbal



winks, and backward glances indicate a lively and imaginative author at earnest play in the field of literary discourse.

Agnieszka Pasieka recently published *Hierarchy and Pluralism: Living Religious Difference in Catholic Poland*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). Based on an ethnographic study of rural Poland, this book investigates the challenges of maintaining pluralism in a religiously homogeneous society. By examining a multireligious and multiethnic community, Pasieka reveals paradoxes inscribed into the practice and discourse of pluralism

[*How the Jesuits Survived Their Suppression: The Society of Jesus in the Russian Empire \(1773-1814\)*](#), by Marek Inglot, S.J., was edited and translated by Daniel L. Schlafly (St. Joseph's University Press) in September 2015. The Society of Jesus, founded in 1540, almost vanished from the pages of history when Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Jesuits worldwide on July 21, 1773, with the brief *Dominus ac Redemptor*. Catherine the Great protected the 201 Jesuits she had acquired in 1772 with the First Partition of Poland and insisted that they continue their apostolic work as Jesuits. For decades, her successors continued to support the Jesuits. The "Russian" Society was the only surviving Jesuit entity in the world after 1780, except for a few Jesuits in Quebec, where Governor James Murray and Bishop Jean-Olivier Briand refused to implement the brief of suppression. The "Russian" Society served as a beacon of hope for former Jesuits everywhere, made possible partial restorations outside the empire before 1814, and led directly to the general restoration of the Society in that year. *How the Jesuits Survived Their Suppression* examines this crucial chapter of Jesuit history.

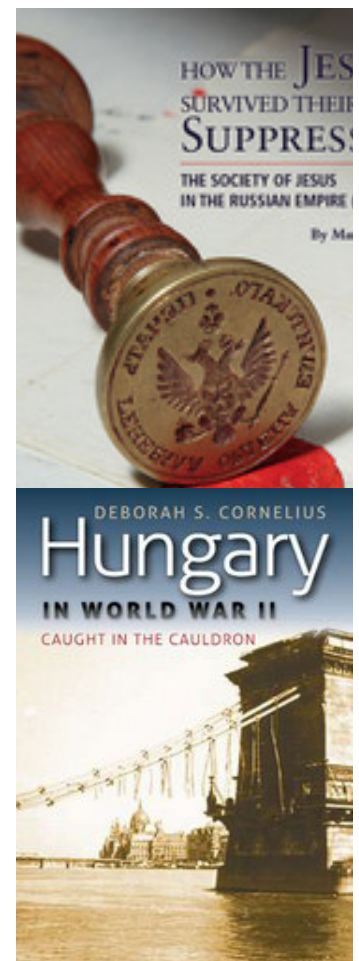
[*Humanitarian Invasion: Global Development in Cold War Afghanistan*](#), by Timothy Nunan, was published in January 2016 by Cambridge University Press.

It is a ground-level inside account of what development and humanitarianism meant for Afghanistan, a country touched by international aid like no other. Relying on Soviet, Western, and NGO archives, interviews with Soviet advisers and NGO workers, and Afghan sources, Timothy Nunan forges a vivid account of the impact of development on a country on the front lines of the Cold War. Nunan argues that Afghanistan functioned as a laboratory for the future of the Third World nation-state. If, in the 1960s, Soviets, Americans, and Germans sought to make a territorial national economy for Afghanistan, later, under military occupation, Soviet nation-builders, French and Swedish humanitarians, and Pakistani-supported guerrillas fought a transnational civil war over Afghan statehood. Covering the entire period from the Cold War to Taliban rule, *Humanitarian Invasion* signals the beginning of a new stage in the writing of international history.

In July of 2015 the Hungarian translation of Deborah S Cornelius' book, *Hungary in World War II: Caught in the Cauldron*, was presented in the Great Hall of the Hungarian National Museum, with the title: *KUTYASZÓRÍTÓBAN: Magyarország és a II. világháború*.

[*"Our Native Antiquity": Archaeology and Aesthetics in the Culture of Russian Modernism*](#), by Michael Kunichika, was published by Academic Studies Press in November 2015 as part of the Studies in Russian and Slavic Literatures, Cultures, and History Series. 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. 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. The book follows the careers of 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.

Magdalena Nowak, Joanna Karbarz-Wilińska, Tadeusz Sucharski prepared as co-editors a volume entitled *Полісу і Українці. Історія, która łączy i dzieli/Поляки і українці Історія, яка поєднує і роз'єднує*. The book was published



by Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pomorskiej in 2015.

The publication focuses on Polish-Ukrainian relations in various aspects: historical, social, political, cultural and religious. It includes scholarly texts written by Polish and Ukrainian specialists as well as discussion that took place after their presentation. One of the goals of this volume was to present the last 25 years of Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation process and the long-term effects of so called *Volhynian slaughter 1943-1944*.

[*Volume 3: Russia's Home Front In War And Revolution, 1914-22: Book 1. Russia's Revolution In Regional Perspective*](#), edited by Sarah Badcock, Liudmila G. Novikova, and Aaron B. Retish, was released by Slavica Publishers in 2015.

This book presents a series of essays that expand our understanding of the Russian Revolution through the detailed study of specific localities. Answering the important question of how locality affected the revolutionary experience, these essays provide regional snapshots from across Russia that highlight important themes of the revolution. Drawing on new empirical research from local archives, the authors 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. *Russia's Revolution in Regional Perspective* highlights several important themes of the period that are reflected in this volume: a multitudinal state, the fluidity of party politics, the importance of violence as a historical agent, individual experiences, and the importance of economics and social forces.

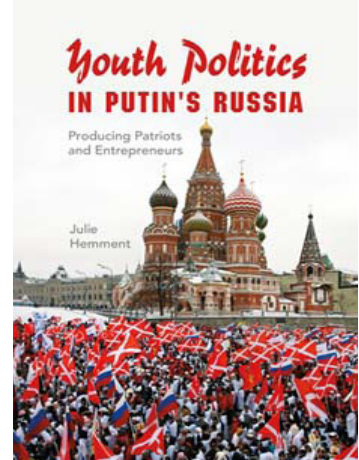
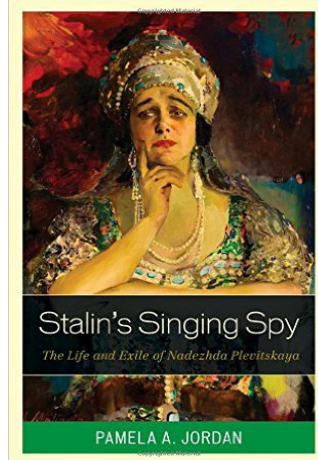
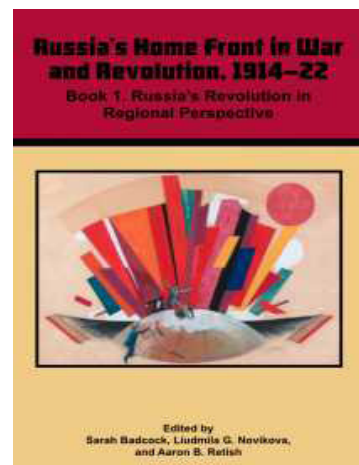
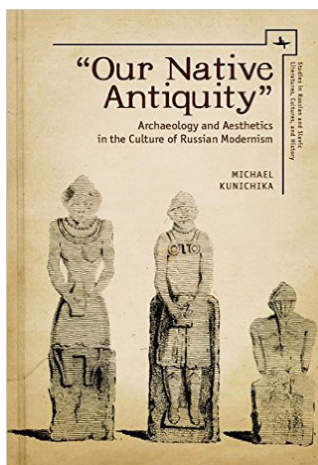
Pamela A. Jordan's book, [*Stalin's Singing Spy: The Life and Exile of Nadezhda Plevitskaya*](#), was published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers in February 2016. It follows the life of Nadezhda Plevitskaya, a Russian peasant girl who achieved fame as one of Tsar Nicholas II's favorite singers and infamy as one of Stalin's agents. She claimed throughout her career to be fundamentally apolitical, yet decades later in Europe, Plevitskaya was unmasked as one of Stalin's secret agents along with her husband, White Russian General Nikolai Skoblin. Their experiences in exile shed light on Stalin's covert operations and the hardships Russian émigrés faced in interwar Europe. In addition, this book uncovers the roles that the couple played in one of the Soviets' major intelligence coups—the 1937 kidnapping of White Russian General Evgeny Miller in Paris. Jordan recreates Plevitskaya's sensationalized 1938 criminal trial in the Palace of Justice, where she was accused of conspiring to kidnap Miller and portrayed as a Red *femme fatale*. The first Western biography of Plevitskaya and the first to reconstruct her dramatic trial, this book provides a window into Soviet espionage in interwar Europe.

[An English-language tribute to Stanisław Barańczak](#) prepared by the editorial staff of *Zeszyty Literackie* is avail-

able on the website of the Harvard Slavic Department.

In addition to eulogies delivered at the funeral in Cambridge on January 3, 2015, the tribute contains remembrances by Adam Zagajewski, Adam Michnik, Beth Holmgren, and Polish Minister of Culture Małgorzata Omilanowska. It concludes with a small selection of poetry translated by Barańczak and one poem by him.

[*Youth Politics in Putin's Russia: Producing Patriots and Entrepreneurs*](#), by Julie Hemment, was published in August 2015 by Indiana University Press. Hemment provides a fresh perspective on the controversial nationalist youth projects that have proliferated in Russia in the Putin era, examining them from the point of view of their participants and offering provocative insights into their origins and significance. The pro-Kremlin organization *Nashi* ("Ours") and other state-run initiatives to mobilize Russian youth have been widely reviled in the West, seen as Soviet throwbacks and evidence of Russia's authoritarian turn. By contrast, Hemment's detailed ethnographic analysis finds an astute global awareness and a paradoxical kinship with the international democracy-promoting interventions of the 1990s. Drawing on Soviet political forms but responding to 21st-century disenchantments with the neoliberal state, these projects seek to produce not only patriots, but also volunteers, entrepreneurs, and activists.



Institutional Member News

[CREECA AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON AND CESSI CONSORTIUM TO HOST 6TH ANNUAL CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SUMMER INSTITUTE](#)

The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the member programs of the CESSI Consortium announce the sixth annual Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute, CESSI, to be held at UW-Madison from June 13-August 5, 2016. Information and application materials are available on the CESSI Web site: creeca.wisc.edu/cessi. The deadline to apply for admission and the fee remission scholarship is April 1, 2016.

In summer 2016, intensive courses in beginning and intermediate Kazakh, Tajik, Uyghur, and Uzbek will be offered. Scheduling of courses is contingent upon enrollment. Students should apply to CESSI as early as possible to help ensure that their desired class will be offered. CESSI 2016 will also feature a weekly lecture series on various topics of interest to people in the field of Central Eurasian studies, cultural events, and field trips related to the countries of Central Eurasia.

For additional information about CESSI 2016, please contact Nancy Heingartner, CESSI program coordinator, cessi@creeca.wisc.edu, 608-262-3379.

[SYMPOSIUM IN MEMORY OF CATHY NEPOMNYASHCHY: SOVIET, POST-SOVIET, AND EMIGRÉ CULTURE](#)

April 8th, Columbia University

The Columbia University Slavic Department will host a celebration of Cathy Nepomnyashchy's contribution to the study of Soviet, post-Soviet, and emigré culture. Presenting will be her fellow students at Brown and Columbia, her colleagues, and her students over the years. Topics include: Expanding Modes of Soviet Culture; Literary Responses to Conflict and Trauma; Nabokov: Friends and Enemies; Representing Remarkable Russian Selves for a New Era; Regenerating Russian Genres; Post-Soviet Cultural Critique: and Spectacle, Page, and Screen.

The symposium, sponsored by the Harriman Institute, will take place in 702 Hamilton Hall on Columbia's campus.

[THE PERSONAL LIBRARY OF ANTHONY CROSS, HISTORIAN AND SCHOLAR OF 18TH CENTURY RUSSIAN STUDIES, IS NOW AT HILLWOOD](#)

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens announces the acquisition of the personal library of professor Anthony Cross, historian and scholar of 18th-century

Russian studies and professor of Slavonic Studies at the University of Cambridge from 1985 to 2004. He is internationally known for his work on 18th-century Russia and Anglo-Russian cultural relations. Cross has written and edited 25 books and has published over 400 articles, notes and reviews. Through his academic life, Professor Cross received several distinguishing accolades: In 1989, he was elected to the British Academy; he was invited to join the Russian Academy of the Humanities in 1996. In 2010 he received an honorary doctorate from the Institute of Russian Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Pushkin House).

The collection, built over the course of 60 years, includes 2,330 books in Russian, English, French and German, on literature, art, architecture, drama, history, freemasonry, history of science, geography, bibliography, and St. Petersburg; hundreds of offprints; and several linear feet of Cross' personal files on authors and subjects.

The literature section of the collection includes numerous anthologies and histories, as well as works by, and studies on, all the leading authors of 18th-century Russia. The enlightenment and freemasonry sections include first editions of monographs by Pypin, Longinov, Vernadskii, and Barskov. The reigns of Peter I and Catherine II are particularly well represented in the history section, which includes more than 400 volumes. The fine art section covers not only painting and engraving but also architecture, sculpture, gem stones, ceramics, numismatics, museums, heraldry, and genealogy. Additionally, there is an excellent section on the history of St. Petersburg, which includes many 19th-century studies but also a great many small-edition booklets and brochures.

Professor Cross' personal library is a welcome addition to Hillwood's special collections library, joining the assemblages of other prominent scholars such as Andrei Avinoff, former director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Edward Kasinec, former chief of the New York Public Library Slavic and Baltic Division; and Anne Odom, former curator emerita at Hillwood.

KENNAN INSTITUTE NEWS: NEW RUSSIA STUDIES INITIATIVE IN HONOR OF JAMES H BILLINGTON

The Wilson Center announced support to create a new initiative in honor of Dr. James H. Billington, which will be established within the Center's Kennan Institute.

Dr. Billington was the first director of the Wilson Center, joining the newly established presidential memorial in the early 1970s. One of his first acts as director was

to found the Kennan Institute together with Ambassador George F. Kennan and historian S. Frederick Starr.

Dr. Billington left the Wilson Center in 1987 to become the 13th Librarian of Congress. During his tenure, he more than doubled the Library's traditional collections. His efforts to digitize and make available the Library's holdings electronically made this national resource available to millions around the world. Upon his retirement in 2015, the United States Congress designated Dr. Billington as Librarian Emeritus of Congress, making him only the third individual in history to receive this distinction.

Dr. Billington is the author of *The Icon and the Axe* (1966), *Fire in the Minds of Men* (1980), and *Russia in Search of Itself* (2004), among other seminal works. He is also the founder of the Open World Leadership Center, which has facilitated the travel of over 24,000 individuals from Eurasia to the United States to meet with members of Congress and visit across the United States.

The Billington Initiative will support three primary activities: The creation of the "James H. Billington Fellow"; an annual "Billington Forum" on the subject of Russian culture and/or history; and the appointment of James H. Billington as "Distinguished Fellow and Director Emeritus, Wilson Center"

[FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER](#)

Title VIII Fellowships

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 July 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.

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.

Kennan Fellowship Teams will: Produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications; present work at D.C., Russia, and/or Ukraine events; and 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 the 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.

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following scholars:
George F. Kennan Fellows

Irina Papkova, Research Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown, "The Orthodox Church and Russian Politics: 2008-2015."

Ronald Suny, Professor, University of Michigan, "Reading Russia: Historians, the Russian Revolution, and the Soviet Union."

Valentyna Kharkun, Professor, Head of Ukrainian Literature Department, Mykola Hohol State University of Nizhyn, Ukraine, and Roman Abramov, Associate Professor, Higher School of Economics National Research University, Russia, "Museumification of the Soviet Past in Russia and Ukraine: Between Nostalgia and Historical Trauma."

George F. Kennan Fellowship – 1 month

Lev Simkin, Advocate, Moscow Advocate Chamber, "Soviet Trials of Masterminds and their Accomplices in the Killings of Jews."

[UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SUMMER RESEARCH LABORATORY](#)

The Summer Research Laboratory (SRL) on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia is open to all scholars with research interests in the Russian, East European and Eurasian region for eight weeks during the summer months from June 13 until August 6. The SRL provides scholars access

to the resources of the University of Illinois Slavic collection within a flexible time frame where scholars have the opportunity to seek advice and research support from the librarians of the Slavic Reference Service (SRS).

The deadline for grant funding is April 15! REEEC will continue to receive applications for the Summer Research Lab after the grant deadline, but housing and travel funds will not be guaranteed. For further information, please use this link: <http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/>.

For graduate students, the SRL provides an opportunity to conduct research prior to going abroad and extra experience to refine research skills. Students will also have the opportunity of seeking guidance from specialized librarians skilled in navigating resources pertaining to and originating from Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia.

The SRS is an extensive service that provides access to a wide range of materials that center on and come from: Russia, the Former Soviet Union, Czech and Slovak Republics, Former Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania.

[CFA: RANEPА 2016 SUMMER CAMPUS](#)

For the fifth year running, the best students of Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPА) and its branches, the Universities of the Republic of Tatarstan and a number of foreign universities, will be granted a unique opportunity to spend time enriching their knowledge and practicing their leadership and creative skills. Undergraduates, especially juniors and seniors, are welcome to apply by April 15, 2016.

Being teamed up in a dozen of multinational working groups, the Campus participants from different cities and countries become a part of an intellectual youth force, acquiring and improving practical project design and implementation skills and developing strategic approach to decision-making. A unique educational format of RANEPА Summer Campus includes a series of trainings, seminars, master-classes, workshops and webinars, delivered by outstanding representatives of international and Russian academic, political and business elites.

[UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM CFA: DISSERTATION AND THESIS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: THE HOLOCAUST IN THE SOVIET UNION](#)

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invites applications for a Dissertation and Thesis Development Workshop that is focused on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union. This workshop will be held from July 18-29, 2016 at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

This workshop will help prepare early doctoral students interested in the Holocaust in the Soviet Union

for successful academic careers. Participants from North America and the former Soviet Union, with the guidance of Jeffrey Veidlinger (Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies, University of Michigan) and Mandel Center staff, will discuss pre-circulated project proposals and research strategies. Participants also will attend sessions devoted to historiography and central career development issues. In addition, participants will have ample opportunity to conduct research in the Museum's extensive library and archival collections, which include more than 200 million pages of material in physical and digital formats.

In addition to scholars from North American institutions of higher education, the Museum welcomes applications from early Ph.D. students enrolled at universities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Applicants should clearly articulate a potential dissertation topic focusing on the Holocaust as it occurred in the former Soviet Union, but should not yet have conducted significant archival research or have started writing.

Applications must include: (1) [the online application form](#); (2) a current cv; (3) a maximum 1000-word summary of a proposed dissertation topic; and (4) a confidential recommendation letter from the applicant's advisor that addresses the applicant's potential and relevant interests, background, training, and qualifications. Recommendation letters may be in English, Russian, or Ukrainian; all other application materials must be in English.

Application materials may be sent by email attachment or fax to Dr. Elana Jakel, at ejakel@ushmm.org or +1 (202) 479-9726. To preserve the confidentiality of recommendation letters, faculty recommenders must send their letters directly to Dr. Jakel; recommendation letters cannot be submitted by applicants. All application materials must be received by Thursday, March 31.

The Museum will accept a maximum of 16 participants. Awards include (1) a stipend toward the cost of direct travel to and from each participant's home institution and Washington, D.C.; (2) shared lodging for the workshop's duration; and (3) a stipend toward the cost of meals, local transit, luggage surcharges, and other incidental expenses, which will be distributed after the workshop's conclusion via direct deposit or international wire transfer. It is the sole responsibility of each participant to acquire the appropriate visa to enter the US and to pay for any costs associated with securing that visa.

[ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM AT RUTGERS TO OPEN NEW EXHIBIT: DREAMWORLDS AND CATASTROPHES](#)

On March 12, the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers will open *Dreamworlds and Catastrophes*, an exhibition exploring Soviet artists' engagement with science,

technology, and design at the height of the Cold War. The artists featured captured the duality of the intense geopolitical circumstances and the sense of hopeful possibility created by technological advancement in Soviet military and space technologies. Works range from documentary photography, which memorialized scientific achievements and their influence on everyday life, to surrealistic abstractions that encapsulated the sense of a rapidly changing world, to kinetic sculptures that incorporated new technologies. Although created in the Cold War era of the 1960s to the 1980s, these works have a renewed relevance and immediacy as current global events have reignited American and Western European tensions with Russia.

Dreamworlds and Catastrophes includes nearly 60 works by artists from Estonia, Latvia, Russia, and Ukraine, all of whom were operating in underground circles and whose work was not sanctioned by the Soviet regime. Their works critically examine the extreme nationalism that characterized the period and offer a wide-range of both political perspectives and artistic experimentations. Among the notable artists are Petr Belenok, Jānis Borgs, Valdis Celms, Boris Mikhailov, Sergei Sherstiuk, and Alexander Zhitomirsky. The exhibition is curated by Ksenia Nouril, Dodge Fellow at the Zimmerli, and draws from the Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art at the museum. The exhibition is organized into three distinct yet interrelated sections: The first focuses on the tensions between the superpowers of the U.S. and USSR via the nuclear arms and space races. The second section surveys how artists used abstraction, surrealism, and even computer science to reimagine their earthly landscapes as well as the worlds beyond. The third section explores artists who used new technologies and theories to create works of kinetic art.



Boris Mikhailov
From the series *Sots Art*, 1975-1990
Gelatin silver print handcolored with aniline dyes

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ASEEES MENTORING PROGRAM 2016-2017 CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Our field boasts a wide range of area studies and disciplinary knowledge, but how one makes one's way through dissertation rites, funding cycles, postdocs, job markets, and non-academic career trajectories is often left as much to creative invention as it is to shared advice. Early-career scholars rightly lean on their advisors, their universities, and their peer networks with these issues, but the advantage of an association like ASEEES is that we can offer a good deal more.

ASEEES is sponsoring a new network to match volunteer mentors and mentees who are interested in conversation on these and other topics over the course of a single academic year.

To take part in these conversations, please register online by Monday, April 24. <http://aseeess.org/programs/mentoring>

Affiliate Member News

[ADSEEEES LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE](#)

ADSEEEES (the Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies), is organizing its yearly spotlight panel for ASEEES 2016. The spotlight panel initiative is an effort to promote the work of scholars in the field who are engaging in intersectional research that reflects the interconnectedness of social identities and the systems of oppression that act upon them. This year's spotlight panel is "Queering the Color Line in Eurasia."

For more information on ADSEEEES, please visit their newly launched website: <http://www.adseees.org>

ASEEES WELCOMES NEW AFFILIATE GROUP: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS, RUSSIAN, CENTRAL EURASIAN & EAST EUROPEAN SPECIALTY GROUP

ASEEES welcomes a new affiliate group: [American Association of Geographers, Russian, Central Eurasian & East European Specialty Group](#). The RCEEE Specialty Group is a diverse community of researchers, educators, and practitioners brought together by thematic interests regionally spanning Eurasia. Member research is diverse and includes—but is not limited to—political ecology, resource and environmental management, critical geopolitics, "new" cultural geography, feminist geographies, and economic geography. Members are located throughout the world and range from undergraduate students to professors emeriti.

7TH ANNUAL STUDIUM CARPATO-RUTHENORUM INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOR RUSYN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center and the Institute for Rusyn Language and Culture at Prešov University in Prešov, Slovakia, announce the seventh annual 3-week Studium Carpato-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture (June 5-25, 2016).

The Studium offers a unique experience to Slavic scholars and students interested in exploring the history, culture, and language of an East Slavic people located on the border between East and West Slavic linguistic and cultural worlds. The Rusyn language (codified in Slovakia in 1995) and Carpatho-Rusyn culture may also be of special interest to those who study the formation of nationality. Participants in the Studium observe how the ancestral Rusyn language is being preserved, how traditional culture is being renewed and propagated,

and how Carpatho-Rusyns have been brought closer to their heritage through traditional and modern means, in particular the Internet and its various social media instruments.

The basic curriculum includes:

- Intensive daily language study;
- Lectures in Carpatho-Rusyn history and folklore;
- Pysanky and folksong workshops;
- Excursions to the famous Carpathian wooden churches, museums, and folk festivals, along with, a visit to an authentic Rusyn village for feasting, singing, and dancing;
- A day trip to the historical Lemko Rusyn region and the spa town of Krynica in Poland.

Scholarship aid is available for students registered in a North American college or university, and Prešov University offers a certificate which students can present to their home institutions to earn credits for the program. For further information, see their [website](#) or <http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org/National/15StudiumCR.html>.

Applications are due April 1, 2016. Letters requesting financial aid may be emailed to Patricia Krafcik along with a copy of your application (patkrafcik@gmail.com).

[SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS OF EAST EUROPEAN, EURASIAN, AND RUSSIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE](#)

Following elections in December 2015, SHERA has elected Ksenia Nouril as its new Secretary/Treasurer, replacing Yelena Kalinsky. Amy Bryzgel replaced Ksenya Gurshtein as the Web News Editor.

SHERA member Myroslava Mudrak and Tetiana Rudenko have been awarded the 2016 Alfred H. Barr Jr. Prize for Smaller Museums, Libraries, Collections, and Exhibitions for their Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde exhibition at the Ukrainian Museum. The award will be conferred during the College Art Association Annual Business Meeting in Washington DC.

SHERA member Corina Apostol was nominated and accepted by the Romanian Cultural Minister to serve as a council member in the National Administration for Cultural Funds (Administratia Fondului Cultural National /AFCN), under the Romanian Ministry of Culture. This is a 2 year appointment. There are 11 council members who are tasked with deciding which programs, projects and cultural activities receive funds from the government and support international cultural relations.

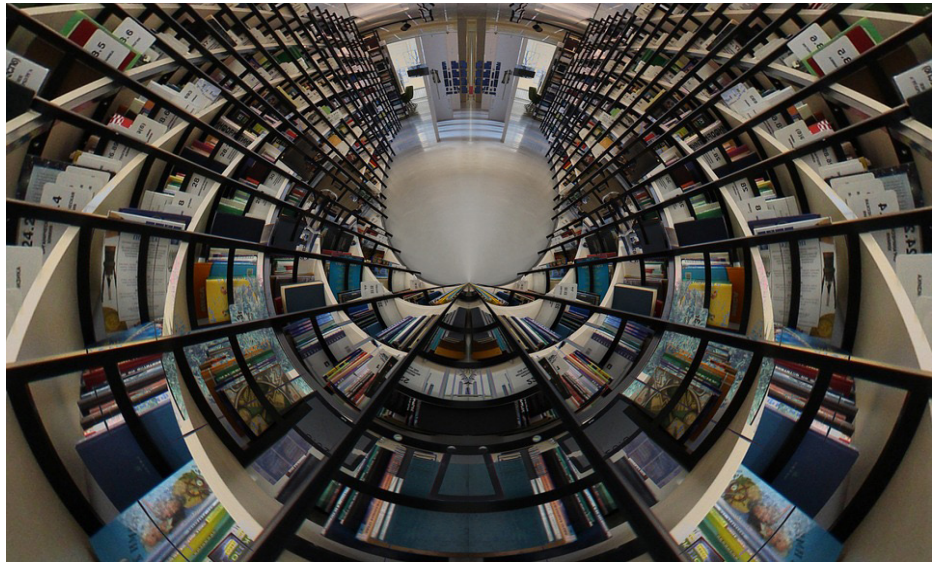
ASEEES DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT

**Grant amount:
\$5,000**

TO APPLY

The online application includes:

- a two-page, single-spaced, 1000-word description of the research scope, analytical framework, methodological plan, budget, and timeline;
- a two-page CV, transcripts;
- two recommendation letters;
- a section on the status of all grants to which one has applied for the research period and/or a statement of ineligibility for key funding opportunities.



ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant may be a graduate student of any nationality, in any discipline currently enrolled in a US PhD program
- Applicant must have successfully achieved PhD candidacy (ABD status) by the start of the proposed research travel
- Applicant must have language proficiency to conduct the proposed research
- Applicant must be a student member of ASEEES
- Applicant must plan to conduct research in one or more of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- Applicant must plan to start the research travel within the same calendar year following the receipt of the fellowship
- Applicant must not hold the Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship, Fulbright-Hays DDRA, SSRC IDRF and other similarly fully-funded fellowships for the same research project



**DEADLINE
April 30**

<http://aseees.org/programs/dissertation-grant>

In Memoriam

John Glad passed away on December 5, 2015. Glad was an acclaimed translator of Varlam Shalamov and Vasiliy Aksenov and an authority on Russian literature in exile. His video/print interview series with major Russian emigre writers like Aksenov, Brodsky, Sinyavsky, and Voinovich preserved their unedited remarks for generations to come. Glad had been a professor of Russian literature at Rutgers, the University of Chicago, the University of Iowa, and the University of Maryland. He also served as Director of the Kennan Institute from 1982 to 1983. In addition, Glad was known as an expert oral interpreter. Glad's full obituary is available [here](#).

Excerpt of text provided by Richard Robin

Abbott Gleason, a scholar of Russian history and culture whose works helped illuminate the Soviet Union during and beyond the Cold War era, died December 25, 2015 at the age of 77. "Tom" Gleason was born on July 21, 1938. He studied at Harvard University, receiving a bachelor's degree in history in 1961 and a doctorate in Russian history in 1969.

Gleason taught at Brown University from 1968 until he retired in 2005. In Washington, he was director of the Kennan Institute in the early 1980s, a role that made him well known among Kremlinologists during the Cold War.

At Brown, he chaired the history department and lectured on "everything from the emergence of the Slavs as a definable Eurasian culture all the way through to the end of the Soviet Union and into the Putin era," he wrote in a memoir, *A Liberal Education* (2010). Gleason displayed similar academic range in his writings. Among his best-known works were *Young Russia: The Genesis of Russian Radicalism in the 1860s* (1980) and *Totalitarianism: The Inner History of the Cold War* (1995). He co-edited volumes on Bolshevik culture, Soviet-American Relations, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and George Orwell's novel *1984*.

[Excerpted from the Washington Post obituary written by Emily Langer.](#)

Frank J. Miller, Professor of Russian Language at Columbia University, passed away on January 24, 2016 at the age of 75.

Miller devoted his entire life to studying, teaching, and writing about the Russian language. A graduate of Florida State University (1962), he received his Ph.D.

from Indiana University in 1976. He taught at the University of South Carolina, Bryn Mawr College, and Colby College before beginning at Columbia University in 1985. Miller was a vital member of the Columbia Slavic Department for thirty years, down to his very last day, teaching language, directing the Russian language program for decades, and chairing the department from 1994 to 1998. He was a long-term colleague of the Russian School at Middlebury, served as president of AATSEEL in 1999-2000, and was the recipient of the Hettelman Award for Distinguished Teaching and Service at Columbia University in 1988 and the AATSEEL Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996.

A prolific author, his *Handbook of Russian Prepositions* and *Handbook of Russian Verbs* became classics. But his magnum opus will remain the three volumes of Russian language textbooks, *Beginner's Russian*, *ВPLYMU: Russian Grammar in Context*, and *Russian: From Intermediate to Advanced*, all written in collaboration with Olga Kagan and Anna Kudyma.

A memorial service for Professor Miller will be held on April 29, 2016, at Columbia University's Kellogg Center.

Vladimir Shlapentokh, a Soviet-born American Sociologist, died on October 5, 2015. He was 88. Shlapentokh and his family left the Soviet Union in 1979, when he received an invitation by Michigan State University for a senior professorship. He remained there until his retirement in 2014.

Shlapentokh published over 40 books and dozens of articles, most of them on Soviet and Russian society and politics as well as a variety of sociological subjects. He was intensely and constantly curious about every facet of his new home, not least, issues about female labor mobility, race relations, as well as interpersonal and group relations. He frequently returned to lecture in Moscow and continued to be active in the intellectual world he had left. He organized numerous conferences at Michigan State and panels at professional societies, inviting leading Russian scholars, including his former colleagues such as Yury Levada and Boris Grushin. The scholars would also stop in Washington for sessions at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars and other think tanks.

Shlapentokh retired in 2014.

Excerpt of text provided by Ellen Mickiewicz

Member Spotlight: Elena Clark

Elena Clark is an author and Teacher Scholar and Post-doctoral Fellow in Russian at Wake Forest University.

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

My family moved to Russia in 1993 and so I had to learn the language. While I was in college I realized Russian was a very useful skill and I ended up minoring—my university didn't have a Russian major—in it and going back to Russia for study abroad. I became interested in translation then and got into the Russian Translation program at Columbia, which led to an interest in literature, and the next thing I knew, I was getting a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from UNC-Chapel Hill. Getting an advanced degree in Russian and making it my career was not originally my intention, but at every step of the way something would come up, just as I was thinking of quitting, to encourage me to continue. Kind of my own epic/heroic journey, I guess!

How have your interests changed since then?

I was originally interested in translation and prose, but during my first semester in grad school I had a road-to-Damascus moment while reading the Tsvetaeva poem “Каждый стих—дитя любви...”, and so my dissertation and a lot of my post-dissertation research has been on poetry. I also became very interested in Finland, so I combined the two things and wrote on Evgeny Baratynsky.

What is your current research/work project?

Aside from my academic work, I've also been working for the past several years on a fantasy series set in a Slavic-based, matriarchal society, the first book of which, *The Midnight Land*, is now out on Amazon. Slavs rarely feature in Western fantasy, and when they do, they're normally stereotypical bad guys, like Igor Karkaroff in Harry Potter. I wanted to write something where the central characters were recognizably Slavs, living in a Slavic world, and I also wanted to write something about a

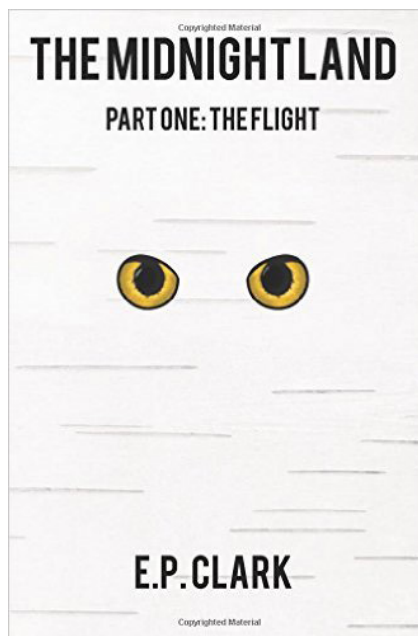
matrilineal, matriarchal society that wasn't like any of the (very disappointing) matriarchal societies I'd read about in other speculative fiction. I wrote some drafts of things in college, and in grad school I wrote some short stories about the world I was creating. The first one, “Winter of the Gods,” won a fantasy writing competition, and then I had several more published in e-zines and things like that. While I was taking an old Russian literature class I came across the phrase “the midnight land” and I instantly knew that had to be the title of my next work. So I sat

down to write another short story, only to finish it 1000 pages later. My heroine, Slava, ended up going on an epic physical and psychological journey that neither of us were expecting when we set off! And then I decided to turn it into a trilogy, which I've named “The Zemnian Trilogy.” I wrote the final novel in the series—the middle novel is still only partially written—and that one was even longer, and I realized I was going to have to split up each book into multiple volumes, so I've called it “A Trilogy in Seven Volumes”—I assume a lot of my readers will get the reference! The story is meant to be mainstream, contemporary fantasy in the spirit of George R.R. Martin or Terry Pratchett, two of my favorite fantasy authors; instead of working with and playing on Western European culture

and literature, it's drawing not only on medieval Slavic writing and Russian fairy tales, but also on Pushkin, Gogol, Karolina Pavlova—a huge influence—Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and so on, all the while tackling some of the “big questions” and subverting gender norms. I hope fans of Russian literature will have as much fun picking out the direct and indirect references to things like Dead Souls and Anna Karenina—my “Anna” is a man, by the way—as I had putting them in there!

What do you value about your ASEES membership?

It's great to have an association that brings together different disciplines of Slavic studies. I especially appreciate the annual convention, since it allows me to meet up with Slavists who study things like linguistics or art or history. I think cross-disciplinary fertilization is very important.





**48th Annual ASEEEES
Convention
Washington DC
Marriott Wardman Park
November 17-20, 2016**



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ASEEES WEBINARS:

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Diane P. Koenker, Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will discuss the key elements of an academic job application, the cover letter and the c.v.: what to include in each, and what to exclude; the standard elements and nomenclature of an academic c.v.; how search committees read application letters and supporting materials.

WED, APR 20, 2-3PM EDT

**“GETTING PUBLISHED IN SLAVIC & EURASIAN STUDIES: DO’S AND DON’TS OF
ACADEMIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING”**

Increasingly, a completed or nearly completed dissertation is not enough to do well on the job market. Now search committees expect even first-time job candidates to have a publication record. Editors at various interdisciplinary journals that publish Slavic studies related scholarship, will discuss strategies for successful article publishing with a special focus on providing tools for young scholars.

WED, MAY 18, 2-3PM EDT

To register for these webinars, please visit <http://aseees.org/programs/webinars>