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Central Asian Islam Outside a Soviet Box

Morgan Y. Liu, Ohio State University

A quarter century after the Soviet collapse, Central Asian studies continues to find more of a home with institutions in the ASEES realm than with Middle East studies, Asian studies, or comparative Muslim societies.¹ For those working on the current period, there are valid scholarly reasons still to conceptualize Central Asia with respect to the rest of the former Soviet and European state socialist space. Even as post-Soviet Central Asian societies have diverged from each other in politics, economics, and society, they are tethered to the Russian Federation through bilateral ties, multilateral organizations, military arrangements, media presence, cultural influence, and personal stakes of the many Central Asian labor migrants in Russia. More importantly, Central Asian nationalisms, cultural and religious “revivals”, political imaginaries, and institutions bear deep marks of Soviet understandings and practices, the nativist rhetoric of the independent states notwithstanding.

But a nagging question remains. What is being left out in Central Asian research when its scholars tend to be associated most with Slavic, East European, and Eurasian units, conferences, and publication venues? What crucial questions remain unasked for Central Asia because of the scholarly epistemologies and histories of debate within the Soviet studies space? Such a question may be posed for any geographical area, but Central Asia’s current “decolonizing” moment and new global connections constitute an invitation to explore wider comparative frameworks of inquiry. This move does not seek to repudiate the connections of Central Asian studies to ASEES-like institutions. On the contrary, it is a call only to open up. The idea is to encourage multiple footings in Central Asian research and nimble ways of bringing them into productive dialogue.

This think piece outlines the beginnings of one such attempt. It runs through an example showing, I suggest, that Central Asian Islam has tended to be misunderstood in part because of its framing within the concerns of Soviet studies, a misconception that has carried forward into post-Soviet scholarship. I sketch out an alternative framing, borrowed from

anthropological work on Islam in the Middle East and Muslim-majority societies worldwide, that shifts perspective on Central Asian Islam, opening novel questions for both the Soviet and post-Soviet periods. The key intervention here is the contention that Central Asian Islam has been framed, implicitly or explicitly, as a radical rupture from Islam elsewhere (outside of state socialisms) because of the supposedly extraordinary experience of Soviet or European state socialist rule. Instead, I present Islam in Central Asia (and potentially elsewhere in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe) as being more continuous with Islam worldwide, as fully locatable on a global canvas of Islamic variation.

The familiar narrative about Central Asian Islam follows the contour of Soviet repression succeeded by post-Soviet “revival”. Instances of this narrative may err not in the particulars, but in their misleading explanatory framework. Let us start with the Soviet experience, which varied by period and place. Mosques and madrasas (Islamic seminaries) were mostly closed, and the few kept running were highly restricted in activity and attendance. Imams (mosque leaders) were imprisoned, killed, or driven into exile or underground. Religious texts were destroyed, with a few squirreled away in homes. Islamic education outside of state-sanctioned institutions happened quietly in neighborhoods, with women playing crucial roles in transmission of religious knowledge. Islamic practice – especially praying, fasting, and pilgrimage to Mecca – was discouraged, forbidden, and punished, particularly for men under 40. Overall, state efforts to root out religious “backwardness” in Central Asia were variously interleaved with broader social goals for the “emancipation” of women, restructuring of class relations, liquidation of illiteracy, modernizing of worldviews, and orientation away from the Muslim world and toward the rest of the Union (though Central Asia served as a showpiece for outreach to the Middle East, Africa, and Asia).

After the Soviet dissolution, thousands of mosques were built or restored. Religious teachers trained abroad, or in newly opened Central Asian

madrasas and religious faculties at universities. Men and women of all ages, particularly children and elderly, are acquiring Islamic knowledge in mosque classes and self-organized neighborhood lesson circles. People are noticeably praying, fasting, going to pilgrimage, and avoiding alcohol. They are dressing modestly according to global Islamic rather than pre-Soviet Central Asian standards. Islamic pamphlets, DVDs, television programming, and websites in Central Asian languages and Russian proliferate. Bazaar stalls and retail stores specialize in Islamic clothing and merchandise. Weddings are done “in the Muslim way”, with no vodka, no mixing of the sexes, and less extravagance. Public space – buildings, signage, bodily dress, and loudspeakers – has become increasingly saturated with visual and auditory signs of piety. Central Asians today are, in short, practicing Islam with a certain sense of determination and ostentation.

The question is how to interpret the above. The repression-revival narrative is compelling but problematic. It assumes Soviet and post-Soviet Central Asia to be highly abnormal with respect to an implicit standard of what Muslim-majority societies are supposed to look like. Soviet Central Asia was abnormal, as the thinking goes, because it was almost completely cut off from the wider Muslim world to which it had been historically connected and subject to intense political pressures and social engineering. Post-Soviet Central Asia is abnormal because the rush of competing Islamic missionaries and movements operating there has created a highly contentious religious environment. Central Asians, initially educated poorly in the basics of Islam and left in an “ideological vacuum” after the Soviet collapse, are swayed by contrasting foreign traditions of the faith, even as the states, ever vigilant against “extremism”, attempt to promote a supposedly nativist “Islam of our forefathers”. For both periods, Central Asian Islam is deemed deviant from implicit norms because of the extraordinary consequences of Soviet rule. So the story goes.

Another Perspective on Central Asian Islam

The story is not completely wrong, so much as misleading. It sets forth Central Asia as radical rupture from “normal” Islam, and by doing so, closes off paths of productive inquiry. The purpose here is not to assess the repression-revival narrative in its specifics, nor to discuss the Cold War meta-narrative

that frames it.² Rather, it is to outline a different perspective, drawn from a stream of anthropological studies on Islam inspired by Talal Asad’s notion of *discursive tradition*.³ For Asad, Islam is an ongoing dialogue between foundational texts, their authorized interpreters, and practitioners. Islamic practice and belief are oriented in some way to Qu’ran, Hadith, and other sources, yet interpretations shift across movements, history, and place. Islam is thus a kind of continual conversation between Muslims trying to orient themselves according to the texts, understood to be fixed points, but where their orientations can be mutually contested and evolve. This entire process Asad calls a discursive tradition. Fixity, on one hand, variation and dispute, on the other, are built into this notion of Islam. It simultaneously keeps in view ideals of divine perfection and the vagaries of socio-historical process.

How does seeing Islam as discursive tradition illuminate Central Asia? First, it would avoid generally casting Soviet-era Central Asians as lapsed or deficient Muslims. When they lacked access to Islamic texts, those who tried to maintain some observance nonetheless sought to conform their practice according to what they believed the texts proscribed. The fact that Soviet-era Islamic practices attenuated, deviated from texts over time, or incorporated local elements not attested in any text recognized by outside Muslims, does not change the fact that Central Asians, in good faith, understood their actions to be conforming to absent texts. They remained a part of the discursive tradition, even if Muslims elsewhere would disapprove of their knowledge and practice.

Second, Asad opens new ways of posing questions for the Soviet period. If his approach is right, then Islam is not ultimately about material or ideological content, but rather a continuing dialogue and striving toward correct belief and practice. The focus on inquiry should not only be about the number of mosques closed or proportion of people fasting; we are not measuring “how much Islam survived”. Rather we should ask: how did the contours of the discursive tradition shift as religious teaching and debate were severely muffled and rebutted by an activist modern state hostile to that tradition? How did sincere Central Asian Muslims make sense of their religious duties and moral orientations in a pressurized socio-political context? The Soviet Central Asian Muslim community, as isolated and “repressed” as they were, did not cease their engagement in Islam as a discursive tradition.

Soviet Islam represents not so much a rupture as a mutation in the terms of the Islamic conversation.

Third, Asad highlights the polemical aspects of Muslim orthodoxy as intrinsic to Islam. Much writing about post-Soviet Islam seems to regard the struggle between different forms of Islam as an aberration or interruption to “normal” religious life that is, one is led to suppose, uncontested, stable, and insulated from alternatives. The aggressive presence of foreign Muslim (and other) missionaries and monies starting from the 1990s is seen as producing an abnormal agonistic religious terrain. But if Islam is a discursive tradition, then post-Soviet Islam would not stand as anomalous in the world-historical Islamic record, even with the intensity of current disputes between competing Islamic streams – those are certainly found elsewhere today. Nor is it peculiar that alternative discourses of proper Islam are circulating from afar. Islamic history is replete with trans-local figures, movements, texts, and ideas in various configurations of coexistence and contention. The alarm about “foreign Islam” in the post-Soviet scholarship (and state discourse) is founded on misapprehensions about their supposed abnormality from an ahistorical baseline of “authentic” pure form. Rather than treating Islam as a static national tradition needing protection from outside contamination, it is more accurate to acknowledge it as a discursive tradition, where debate and self-correction over time and across communities are central to how Islam has always manifested itself.

Conclusion

We considered an example of how thinking outside of a Soviet/post-Soviet studies box may yield fresh insight for a region like Central Asia. The move here is to locate it more continuously on the canvas of Muslim-majority societies worldwide and through history by considering what Islam is (a kind of conversation) and is not (specific content). Doing so may have exposed blinders that many scholars (and other observers) tend to wear when writing about Central Asia of the early 20th century onward.⁴

Do those blinders come from concerns driving some of Soviet studies? Is Central Asian Islam regarded as anomalous because Soviet rule is assumed to be exceptional, as revealed in the repression-revival narrative? Such questions cannot be addressed here, but perhaps enough has been said to provoke novel ways of recontextualizing Central Asia and, for that matter, other places within the ASEES purview.

Thinking outside of the area studies box is not a new call. But it is always refreshing to see examples of when it may produce something insightful.

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(Endnotes)

1 Specialists trained in Middle Eastern and Asian studies tend to regard Central Asia as outside their expertise, partly because of the perceived Soviet and Russophone character of those societies today. Institutionally, a conference paper focused only on current Central Asia will unlikely be accepted by MESA (Middle East Studies Association) or AAS (Association for Asian Studies), whereas they are welcomed at ASEES. This is likewise true for the associated flagship journals.

2 It can be argued that much research about Soviet and post-Soviet Central Asia draws breath from Cold War political epistemologies (see for one aspect, Liu 2011:118), thinking broadly with Chari and Verdery's (2009) call to reconsider 20th century history worldwide through a critical lens on the Cold War.

3 Asad's notion of Islam as a discursive tradition (1986) has since inspired a productive subfield of research, critically reviewed by Moutaz (2015).

4 Certainly not all scholars wear these blinders. A few monographs on Central Asian Islam merit mention, which work from nuanced, flexible perspectives advocated here. They are by Adeeb Khalid (2007), Eren Tasar (2017), Johan Rasanayagam (2011), Maria Louw (2007), Svetlana Peshkova (2014), and David Montgomery (2016), among others.

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NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Gwido Zlatkes, Paweł Sowiński, and Ann M. Frenkel, eds. *Duplicator Underground: The Independent Publishing Industry in Communist Poland*, xiii + 511 p., 2016 (ISBN 978-0-89357-457-4), \$34.95.

This first comprehensive English-language discussion of Polish independent publishing in the 1970s and 1980s provides wide-ranging analyses of uncensored publishing in communist Poland. It gives a broad overview, historical explanation, and assessment of the phenomenon of the Polish “second circulation,” including discussions of various aspects of underground printing, distribution, and circulation of independent publications. The documentary part of the book comprises contemporary narratives and testimonies of the participants, including printers, editors, and distributors. The

book argues that rather than being a form of samizdat, Polish underground printing reached a semi-industrial scale and was at the same time a significant social movement.

Magdalena Mullek and Julia Sherwood, eds., *Into the Spotlight: New Writing from Slovakia*, trans. **Magdalena Mullek and Julia and Peter Sherwood**, viii + 193 p., 2017 (ISBN 978-0-89357-466-6), \$19.95.

Though *Into the Spotlight* is drawn from the work of writers from one of Europe’s smallest countries, it reveals itself to be something like a magic lamp out of which comes a multitude of subjects, themes, and styles well out of proportion to its size. Featuring work by Cigánová, Luk, Vilkovský, Kovalyk, and others, this anthology brilliantly balances the specific and the universal.



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Three String Books is an imprint of Slavica Publishers devoted to translations of literary works and belles-lettres from Central and Eastern Europe, including Russia and the other successor states of the former Soviet Union.

Valentin Rasputin. *Ivan's Daughter: Stories and a Novella*, trans. **Margaret Winchell**, viii + 308 p., 2016 (ISBN 978-089357-454-3), \$19.95.

The stories and novella in this collection of work by the late Valentin Rasputin (1937–2015), leading representative of the village prose movement and one of Russia’s greatest contemporary writers, depict life in Russia during the traumatic years following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. By bringing a variety of characters to life—from young children, teen-agers, and middle-aged adults to old peasants and new Russians—Rasputin delves into the burning issues of that time, including questions of morality as well as sheer survival, and allows readers to experience the

immediate post-Soviet past together with the “ordinary

folks” who were fated to

live it. In addition to

shedding light

on the present,

these works

offer an arm-

chair trip

to Siberia

along with

the aesthet-

ic pleasures that

flow from the pen

of a master storyteller.



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Boris Poplavsky, Apollon Bezobrazov, trans. John Kopper, xxvi + 172 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-089357-453-6), \$19.95.

This novel by “recovered Surrealist” Russian émigré poet Boris Poplavsky describes in colorful, poetic detail the hand-to-mouth existence of a small band of displaced Russians in Paris and Italy, chronicling their poverty, their diversions, their intensely played out love affairs, and its namesake’s gradual transformation in the eyes of his admiring followers. Abounding in allusions to Eastern religion, Western philosophy, and 19th-century Russian literature, the work echoes Joyce’s *Ulysses* in its experimental mixing of genres, while its use of extended metaphors reveals the stylistic impact of Marcel Proust. Not published in complete form in Russian until 1993, *Apollon Bezobrazov* significantly broadens our understanding of Russian prose produced in the interwar emigration.

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Opening the Vaults: Art Folios & Resources of the Hoover Institution Library Michael Herrick, Hoover Institution

The Hoover Institution on Stanford University's campus is in the midst of commemorating multiple centenaries. Founded in 1919 at Stanford as the Hoover War Library, a repository for primary sources from the Great War, its exhibit pavilion currently hosts *Weapon on the Wall: American Posters of World War I*. The Hoover Institution today focuses on U.S. policies and its current engagement with the world, but the Library & Archives continue to collect, preserve and provide access to sources related to both past and current wars, revolutions and their effects on societies and individuals. The Russian Revolution and its aftermath (see, for instance, Image 1) sparked an immense amount of collecting activity which is *still* being processed, arranged, described, and digitized one hundred years later.

In preparation for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, the Hoover Library & Archives made a concerted effort to assess its holdings of visual materials produced in that era. This process included recent careful description

of the library's art vault, the core component of which is made up of what is called the Russian Art Collection. The Hoover Tower's upper two vaults contain predominately books and pamphlets about the revolution and civil war, as well as other rarities aligning with the collecting scope of the archives. However, the art vault has also attracted materials that neither fit with the Bolshevik image of Russia nor fall easily within the normal collecting scope of the Hoover War Library, not least of all because, over the past century, the Hoover Institution has also acquired a significant number of paintings and other artwork received as donations or contained within larger accessions to the archives. The library's art vault, however, is confined to items which in some manner can be classified as books. They are often large folios of original prints. Hilja Kukk's decades-old description of the Russian Art Collection at the Hoover Institution, published for the first time recently in *Slavic and East European Information Resources* (vol. 17, no. 3), outlines the basic contours of that collection. Today, one can enter "Russian Art Collection" into Stanford's catalog and browse full descriptions. But the Hoover Library's art vault also contains a range of materials that do not fit within the Russian Art Collection per se. A few factors unify this seemingly disparate assemblage of Russia-related books.

First, the Russian Art Collection at Hoover implies aesthetics and themes largely out of fashion by the early Soviet period. The core of this main art vault collection was acquired in Moscow and Petrograd in the early 1920s and represents some of the immediate discards of revolution. Second, the art vault holds publications whose significance lies as much in how they were made as in the information, whether textual or visual, that they contain. A book on Arabian horses from one of the Hoover Institution's ancillary microcollections of Romanov Family-provenance books illustrates these first two points well. Even though a Hoover War Library collector likely did not acquire this book personally in Petrograd in the early 1920s, it exited Russia as part of the same process of expelling, selling, and destroying the old. The monogram of Russia's last empress, Aleksandra



Image 1: VKhUTEMAS (Art School). "Barrikada na Presne" from "Revolutsionnaia Moskva : tret'emu kongressu kommunisticheskogo internatsionala." [Moskva] : Izdanie Moskovskogo soveta, 1921. [Depiction by a Soviet art student of a Moscow street barricade during the Revolution of 1905]



Image 2: Imperial monogram of Empress Alexandra, Empress consort of Nicholas II stamped in gold on the red silk moiré endpapers of "Kniga ob arabskoi loshadi." S.-Peterburg : Ekspeditsiia zagotovleniia gosudarstvennykh bumag, 1900. [1 of 2 matching, his and her, Russian imperial presentation copies of a book on Arabian horses]

Image 3: Tilesius von T., W. G. (Wilhelm Gottlieb Tilesius von Tilenau), 1769-1857. "Vid Zaliva Anivy v iuzhnoi chasti Sakhalina", unnumbered print in *Atlas k puteshestviu vokrug svieta Kapitana Kruzenshterna. V Sanktpeterburgie : gravirovano i pechatano pri Morskoj tipografii*, 1813. [Ship artist's drawing of a Sakhalin settlement from I.F. Kruzenshtern's round the world voyage, 1803-1806]



Feodorovna (Image 2), appears in a sumptuous binding and pairs with the monogram of her husband in a matching binding for this title currently preserved at the Library of Congress. Large rare book collections acquired throughout the twentieth century, and to this day, fall into this category of pre-revolutionary book art disgorged from the former Russian empire in the decade after the revolution. The book collections of Nicolas de Basily (1883-1963), of the Sidamon-Eristoff private library, and of David and Eugenie Chavchavadze, which contain a large number of titles from a collection which Princess Kseniia (1903–1965), daughter of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich (1863–1919), assembled outside the Soviet Union, all complement the core Russian Art Collection created by Herbert Hoover’s curators in the 1920s. Finally, most of what has congregated in the Hoover Library’s art vault settles uncomfortably into standard twentieth-century library collections. They are usually large or loose folios so they fail to fit on a shelf in a way which libraries generally deem appropriate and convenient.

The collection on Russian America in the Hoover Library’s art vault embodies all three of these points well. This small collection likely owes its existence to Frank A. Golder’s (1877–1929) work in early Soviet Moscow and Petrograd. While the Hoover Library holds several textual travel accounts and other evidence of nineteenth-century Russian interest in America and American interest

in Russia, the most remarkable items document, in images, the nineteenth-century frontier through extra-large folios of prints created in quite limited quantities as the result of Russia's voyages of discovery. Employing on-board ship's artists, these voyages were later documented in large folios of engravings. Many of these images have received well-deserved digitization attention already in the ["Meeting of Frontiers" project](#). The artifacts themselves, however, are worthy of attention and study on their own merits. For example, the 1813 *Atlas k puteshestviu vokrug svieta Kapitana Kruzenshterna* (Image 3, on previous page), showing numerous engravings of the coastline of the current Russian side of the frontier, and I. D. Bulychev's *Voyage dans la Sibérie orientale* depicting the interior, pair with the lithographs of settlements in what is now Alaska produced as part of F.P. Litke's voyage (Image 4).

These folios of original prints and many more similar volumes in the Hoover Library & Archive's Russian Art Collection form the core of a seemingly unintentional jumble of collections relegated originally to the basement of an American archive. Objects like them will be coming out of the vaults for display later this year as part of *The Crown Under the Hammer: Russia, Romanovs, Revolution*, a joint exhibition at the Hoover Memorial Exhibit Pavilion and the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, running October 18, 2017 through early March, 2018.

Michael Herrick is Russian Cataloger & Project Archivist at the Library & Archives of the Hoover Institution.

Editor's note: To view more images from this collection, or to view the images here in greater detail, [click](#).

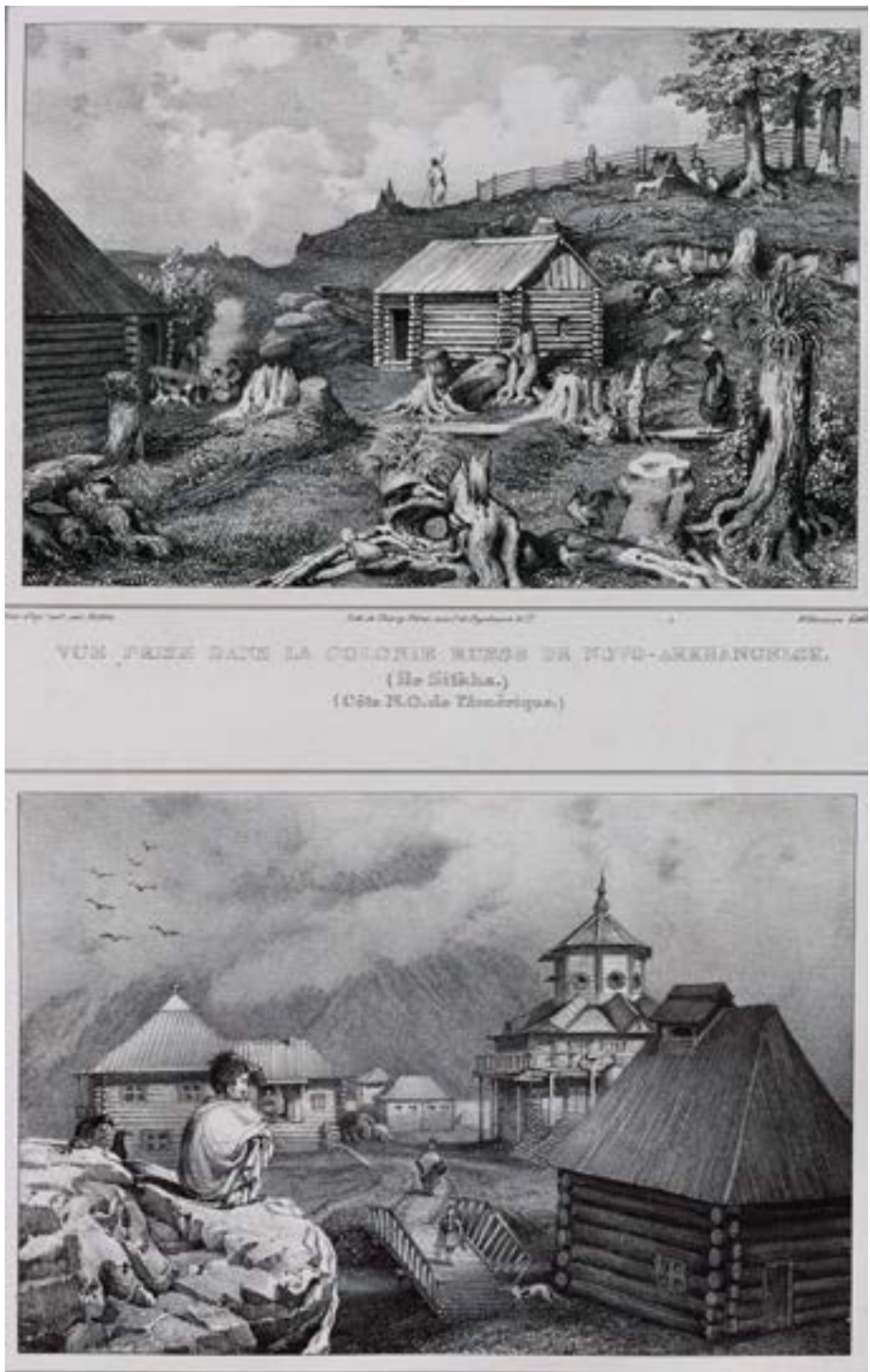


Image 4: Kittlitz, F. H. v. (Friedrich Heinrich von), 1799-1874. "Vues prises dans la colonie russe de Novo-Arkhangelsk (Côte N.A. de l'Amérique)", print 7 in *Voyage autour du monde, fait par ordre de sa Majesté l'Empereur Nicolas Ier, sur la Corvette le Sèniavine, dans les années 1826, 1827, 1828 et 1829, sous le Commandement de Frédéric Lütke, Capitaine de la Marine Impériale de Russie, Aide de Camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, Commandant de l'Expédition. Partie historique. Atlas lithographié d'après les dessins originaux d'Alexandre Postels, Professeur adjoint de l'Université Impériale de St. Petersburg et du Baron Kittlitz*. Paris : Lithographie de Englemann et Compagnie, [1835?] [Ship artist's drawing of a Russian settlement in Sitka, Alaska]



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The Lost Archive of Major Martin Manhoff

Douglas Smith

I had trouble finding the house. My GPS said I had arrived, but I didn't see anything, just an overgrown lot along a typical suburban stretch of road—a Papa John's Pizza and Dairy Queen Grill and Chill on one side, a 7-Eleven and small animal veterinarian on the other. I drove on a few blocks, made a U-turn, and headed back for another look. That's when I saw her, waving at me from a small cut in the dense foliage.

Elizabeth Kain and I had worked together as guides on the US State Department's exhibition *Information USA* in the Soviet Union back in the late 1980s. We remained good friends, and in July of last year she called to ask whether I was interested in going through a collection of Russian things left behind by an elderly couple in Kirkland, several miles east of Seattle. Not sure what to expect, I said yes, and now she was guiding me into a narrow gravel driveway. The house, invisible from the road, sat behind a tall fence. A middle-aged woman with dark hair, whom I'll call the executrix (she wishes to remain anonymous), was waiting for us.

The house was filled with boxes and piles of stuff, much of it laid out on tables. The executrix, a friend of Elizabeth's mother, began to tell us the story of Martin and Jan Manhoff, the owners of the house. Martin had been born in Seattle in 1917. He attended the University of Washington, majoring in art, and then joined the US Army after graduation. He fought in Europe in the Second World War, landing on the beaches at Normandy four days after D-Day in June 1944. He returned to the States after the war and married

Jeannette (Jan) Kozicki, another UW graduate, in 1950. Soon after, Martin left to learn Russian at the Army Language School in Monterey, California.

In early 1952, Martin and Jan moved to the Soviet Union, where he was to serve as assistant military attaché in the US Embassy, then located directly across from the Kremlin on Mokhovaya Street. They remained there for two years when Martin was expelled from the USSR on espionage charges. The couple returned to Washington state and opened a small home furnishings store. They lived quietly and never had any children. Martin died in 2005, Jan in 2014.

The executrix had been close to the Manhoffs and they had selected her to dispose of their estate. She had placed all of their Russian things in a number of boxes. There were dozens of books, hundreds of postcards, and some tourist maps, but nothing of real value. It seemed like a waste of time. And then I came across a stack of 16mm metal film canisters. I picked one up and was stunned by what I saw scratched in pencil: "Stalin Funeral." I kept digging through the boxes. I found one full of photographic slides. I took



Joseph Stalin's funeral procession seen from the embassy, March 1953. (Douglas Smith/Manhoff Archives)

out one of the slides and held it up to the light. It was a street scene from Moscow, clearly from the 1950s, and in brilliant color. I laid the containers out on the floor: there were thousands of slides. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I told the executrix that Martin had left behind something special, and she asked me to take whatever I wanted and try to find a good home for it.

Over the course of the next several months I had the films and slides professionally digitized. As I started going through it all, I was soon convinced this was a major historical find. Martin had taken color photographs throughout the USSR, capturing daily life in Stalin's Russia like nothing I had seen before. He had shot color movie footage from automobiles and trains and even captured Stalin's funeral from the embassy. A gifted photographer, Martin had produced a unique visual record of the Soviet Union.

Curious to see if anyone would share my opinion, I posted about a dozen photographs on my Facebook page. The writer Boris Akunin saw it and commented that he found the images remarkable and then kindly shared my post on his Facebook page after I asked whether he might help me publicize the photographs. With that, the story took off.

After a day or so I was inundated by requests for more images and additional information from news agencies in Russia, Europe, the UK, and US. In the end, I signed a contract with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to do a series of stories on the Manhoff archive. The first installment—"Stalin's Funeral"—

was published online in early March, generating enormous interest. According to the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the Manhoff film of Stalin's funeral has been viewed over 2 million times on Russian-language platforms and over 250,000 times in English. The story has been shared 20,000 times in English and Russian and has been covered by newspapers and magazines in countries around the world.

The entire, four-part series [can now be viewed on RFE's site](#). The material published so far is just a fraction of the entire archive. My plan is to donate the complete Manhoff collection (films, slides, letters, and ephemera) to the University of Washington library where it will be cataloged, preserved, and made available to the public. Before that, however, I am exploring the possibility of publishing a book featuring the best of Martin's photographs and the story of how these beautiful and important images were taken, packed up and forgotten for over half a century, and only now rediscovered.

Comments? Please [contact the author via his website](#).

*Douglas Smith has a doctorate in history from UCLA, where he studied under the late Hans Rogger. His books include *The Pearl* (2008), *Former People* (2012), and *Rasputin* (2016). He is currently writing a book about American famine relief in Russia in the 1920s.*



People line up outside a grocery store at an unknown location. (Douglas Smith/Manhoff Archives)

The Prague Spring Archive Project

Ian P Goodale, University of Texas

The Prague Spring Archive project—a collaboration between the University of Texas at Austin and the Center for Russian East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES), using materials from the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library—has been launched at <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/prague-spring-archive>. The project makes important primary documents on the [Prague Spring](#) openly accessible to a wide and inclusive audience in a digital format, connecting the University of Texas at Austin with an international community of scholars and researchers.

The digitized collection chronicles the United States' perspective of events leading up to, during, and following the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact forces, including declassified cables, intelligence reports, letters, and memoranda exchanged by ambassadors, diplomats, intelligence officers, and politicians. Eight archival boxes are currently available digitally through Texas ScholarWorks, with more being digitized and

prepared for addition to the repository. Many additional materials that have not yet been digitized are available to researchers in the reading room of the LBJ Presidential Library, as well, including materials that address the broader Cold War period before and after the Prague Spring.

The project's online portal has been designed to replicate the original archival structure of the physical materials in the LBJ Library within a digital framework, allowing the user to "read" and explore the archive on their computer. The portal was designed to appeal to both academic researchers and to patrons conducting personal or non-academic research, with additional features planned that will extend the breadth of the site's audience. A primer on the Prague Spring in the form of an [interactive timeline](#) is one of the site's features aimed at users not already familiar with the events surrounding the incident. A module that will include materials aimed at high school teachers and students, including sample lesson plans



[Homepage](#) contains introductory text and links to the site's content.

[Timeline](#) lists events preceding, during, and following the Prague Spring. Click on the link above for an embedded video of Alexander Dubček pledging Czech independence

and educational activities, will also be added in the future. For researchers who would like to explore what is available in the physical collections of the LBJ, the finding aid for the entire archival collection is available on the site.

To help maintain the archival integrity of the materials in their digitized format, extensive metadata were created to accompany the materials within the Texas ScholarWorks repository. The metadata allow the materials to be easily searched by researchers working with the materials within ScholarWorks, and can be downloaded by anyone through the repository. Full-text of the documents will soon be added in XML format to accompany the archival PDFs, increasing searchability and providing an additional resource for working with the documents—making digital humanities practices such as text mining or sentiment analysis easier to accomplish, for example.

The Prague Spring Archive portal is an attractive, easy to navigate resource that will continue to grow over time. New content and features, in development, will expand its scope and elevate its impact. Utilizing digital humanities tools and collaborative approaches to leveraging local expertise, the project creates context for important, unique primary source materials and shares them in an open access environment for use by local, national and international scholarly communities.

Ian Goodale is a Digital Scholarship and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Librarian at The University of Texas at Austin.

The [Landing Page](#) shows the logos of affiliated entities and a large-scale image of protesters during the Prague Spring.



Key Figures in the Archive

[Jacob D. Beam](#) - The US Ambassador to Czechoslovakia under Johnson, Beam was present during the Prague Spring and subsequent invasion of Czechoslovakia. He served as a vital point of contact for the US government as officials assessed the situation and decided on how best to respond.

[Nicolae Ceaușescu](#) - The General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party during the Prague Spring and subsequent invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact Forces.

[Anatoly Dobrynin](#) - As the Soviet Ambassador to the US during the Prague Spring and invasion of Czechoslovakia, Dobrynin facilitated communication between the United States and the Soviet Union.

[Alexander Dubček](#) - The First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia during the Prague Spring. His efforts to reform the communist government in Czechoslovakia were halted when he was forced to resign following the invasion of Warsaw Pact forces.

[Lyndon B. Johnson](#) - As the President in office during the events of the Prague Spring, Johnson played a pivotal role in the U.S. response to the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact forces, and many of the documents in this archival collection are addressed to him directly.

[Henry Kissinger](#) - The National Security Advisor under President Johnson. Although primarily concerned with U.S. involvement in Vietnam, he also played an important role in the broader U.S. handling of the Cold War and pioneered détente with the Soviet Union.

[Antonín Novotný](#) - The Stalinist President of Czechoslovakia (1953-1968), he was forced to yield power to Dubček during the Prague Spring.

[Walt Whitman Rostow](#) - The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs to President Johnson, W.W. Rostow played a vital part in shaping how officials in the United States government viewed and responded to the Warsaw Pact forces' invasion of Czechoslovakia.

[Ludvík Svoboda](#) - The President of Czechoslovakia during the Prague Spring. He was elected on March 30, 1968 with the support of Dubček.

[Walter Ulbricht](#) - The Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic during the Prague Spring. Ulbricht played a key role in cooperation between East Germany and the Soviet Union.

FORTHCOMING IN *SLAVIC REVIEW*

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/slavic-review>

Volume 76 Number 2, Summer 2017

CRITICAL FORUM: THE EAST EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO THE 2015 MIGRATION CRISIS

Introduction: From Comparison to Relationality
Zsuzsa Gille

The Refugee Crisis and the Return of the East-West Divide in Europe
Ivan Krastev

Coherent Selves, Viable States: Eastern Europe and the "Migration/Refugee Crisis"
Dace Dzenovska

The Unbearable Whiteness of the Polish Plumber and the Hungarian Peacock Dance around "Race"
József Böröcz and Mahua Sarkar

Beyond East and West: Solidarity Politics and the Absent/Present State in the Balkans
Jessica Greenberg and Ivana Spasić

ARTICLES

Honored Citizens and the Creation of a Middle Class in Imperial Russia
Alison K. Smith

"Vladimir Lenin in Smolnyi" by Isaak I. Brodskii: The History of a Twin
Andrei Keller

The Oil Deal: Nariman Narimanov and the Sovietization of Azerbaijan
Sara Brinegar

Revolution, Production, Representation: Iurii Rozhkov's Photomontages to Maiakovskii's Poem "To the Workers of Kursk"
Aleksandar Bošković

High Modernism in Theory and Practice: Karel Teige and Tomáš Baťa
Jessica E. Merrill

Wedded to Welfare? Working Mothers and the Welfare State in Communist Poland
Piotr Perkowski

New: Special Online Supplement

CRITICAL FORUM: Global Populisms

How do we make sense of the rise of populism across developed and developing democracies? Why are voters plumping for parties that decry elites as corrupt, democracy as ineffective, and their nations as failures? This critical forum, sponsored by the *Slavic Review*, answers these questions by addressing issues facing both post-communist countries and the developed democracies they are often told to emulate.

Introduction: Anna Grzymala-Busse

Global Populisms and their Impact
Anna Grzymala-Busse

"Neoliberalism is Fascism and Should Be Criminalized": Bulgarian Populism as Left-Wing Radicalism
Venelin I. Ganev

Taking Far-Right Claims Seriously and Literally: Anthropology and the Study of Right-Wing Radicalism
Agnieszka Pasieka

Draining the Swamp: Understanding the Crisis in Mainstream Politics as a Crisis of the State
Abby Innes

CRITICAL FORUM: Russian Influence in 2016 U.S. Presidential Elections

The unpredictability of US-Russian relations looms large, especially in light of the unresolved question of Russia's role in the Trump win. What part should a scholarly journal such as *Slavic Review* play at this fraught time? We cannot offer up the minute developments, but we can provide perspectives, contexts, and reflections not otherwise available in the news media. This is the goal of the critical forum on Russian interference in U.S. elections.

Introduction: Harriet Murav

Trump, Putin, and the Future of U.S.-Russian Relations
Peter Rutland

Kompromat Goes Global?: Assessing a Russian Media Tool in the United States
Sarah Oates

Red Scares and Orange Mobilizations: A Critical Anthropological Perspective on the Russian Hacking Scandal
Julie Hemment

Exclusionary Egalitarianism and the New Cold War
Brian Porter-Szűcs

2017 ASEES Dissertation Grant Recipients

Petya Andreeva, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania, "Hybridity and Transformation in the 'Animal Art' of the Eurasian Steppes: Towards a Revisionist Narrative"

Olga Breininger, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, "Literature as Performative Warfare: Violence, Space and Religion in the North Caucasus"

*Ioanida Costache, Music, Stanford University, "Sonic Resistance in the Counterhistories of Romanian-Roma Musicians"

Ksenia Ershova, Linguistics, University of Chicago, "Sentence Structure and Grammatical Roles in West Circassian"

Nicole Freeman, History, Ohio State University, "A Time to Rebuild: The Education and Rehabilitation of Jewish Children in Postwar Germany and Poland, 1945 – 1953"

*Samuel Hodgkin, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, "Persian Literature, Soviet History and Literature, History of the Modern Middle"

Marta Kalabinski, History, Yale University, "A Port City Behind the Iron Curtain: Contesting Space in Communist Gdańsk"

Alisher Khaliyarov, History, Ohio State University, "The 19th Century Regional Globalization and Its Impact on Khivan Khanate: Cash Waqf or Cash Loan"


Daria Khlevnyuk, Sociology, SUNY Stony Brook, "Russia's Fragmented Efforts to Deal with the Memory of Stalin's Purges"

Sergey Salushev, History, UC Santa Barbara, "Prisoners of the Caucasus: Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Nineteenth Century"

Jared Warren, History, New York University, "Religion and Literary Production in the Worlds of Polish Romanticism, 1795-1855"

Nora Webb Williams, Political Science, University of Washington, "Economic Resilience, Colonial Policy, and Social Trust in Southern Kazakhstan"

* indicates alternates



The image shows a banner for Cambridge Core. On the left, the Cambridge Core logo is displayed in white text. The background features a blue-tinted image of the Earth from space. Below the logo, the text "The new home of academic content" is visible. At the bottom of the banner, there is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search all journal & book content" and a magnifying glass icon, followed by a button labeled "Or browse by subject".

[Cambridge Core](#) is the new academic platform from Cambridge University Press, offering a superior user experience by bringing book and journal content together in one place. Cambridge Core boasts a smarter search function, an enhanced online reading experience, improved site navigation, and the option to create your own Cambridge Core account so you can customize your user experience.

Register for a Cambridge Core account to save searches that automatically add newly published content relevant to your interests, build your own reading list by bookmarking content for later, and choose which journals you receive alerts from. For a full introduction to Cambridge Core's features please download the [user guide](#)

Cambridge University Press is also currently running a [special promotion](#) for new Cambridge Core registrants. Details can be found on the Cambridge blog, but in summary new registrants entering the promo code will get free access to over 5000 articles and over 150 book chapters.

Personages

Daniel Beer's *The House of the Dead* (Allen Lane) and **Rosalind Blakesley's** *The Russian Canvas: Painting in Imperial Russia 1757-1881* (Yale UP), were shortlisted for the Pushkin House Russian Book Prize 2017.

The 2017 ASN Harriman Rothschild Book Prize has been awarded to **Max Bergholz** for his monograph *Violence as a Generative Force: Identity, Nationalism, and Memory in a Balkan Community* (Cornell, 2016), a study of violence in southeastern Europe during the Second World War. The book received an ASEES First Book Subvention grant.

The American Council of Learned Societies inaugural cohort of [Luce/ACLS Fellows in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs](#) included two ASEES members: **Anya Bernstein**, for "The Future of Immortality: Remaking Life and Death in Contemporary Russia" and **Simon Rabinovitch**, for "Jewish Collective Rights: An International Comparison."

William Brumfield completed a Russian lecture tour arranged by the US Embassy in Moscow and the US Consulate in Ekaterinburg, with support provided by Project Harmony International. The tour opened on March 27 with a lecture for the Spaso House Speakers Series at the residence of the US Ambassador to the Russian Federation. [Ambassador John Tefft introduced the lecture](#). Other Moscow area lectures included the Lumiere Brothers Center for Photography and the [Gorkii Museum](#) (Riabushinskii House). Brumfield spoke at the Perm State Humanities University, the Perm Gallery of Art, and Perm State University. In Ekaterinburg (April 1-2), the B. N. Eltsin Presidential Center sponsored two lectures. Additionally, Brumfield spoke at the Urals State Architecture and Art University, and the Museum of Architecture at USAAU. Radio interviews included Ekho Moskvy (and affiliate in Perm.) [Press interviews](#) included "Izvestiia" and "Ogoniok."

Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, which advances research in the social sciences and humanities, was given to **Cathleen M. Giustino** for her project "Violence and Heritage: Museums, Racism and Erasure of the Past in Former Eastern Europe." **Stephen G. Gross** also received a fellowship for his project "Germany's Energy Revolution: Past, Present, and Lessons for the Future."

Faith Hillis has been promoted to Associate Professor of History with tenure at the University of Chicago, effective July 1.

Eileen Kane has been awarded a New Directions Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. New Directions Fellowships are designed to support innovative interdisciplinary research by helping scholars pursue training in a new field. The award will enable Kane to train in Middle East Studies at Brown University, in order to investigate how large-scale migrations of both Muslims and Jews from Russia and the Soviet Union contributed to the formation of the modern Middle East. To undertake this work, she also plans to study Hebrew and Yiddish.

The American Council of Learned Societies announced the [2017 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellows](#). **Joseph Kellner** was among the 65 fellows selected from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants. The fellowship offers graduate students support to focus on projects that form the foundations of their careers and that will help shape a generation of humanistic scholarship. Kellner's research project is titled "The End of History: Radical Responses to the Soviet Collapse."

Matt Miller, Adrian Barr, Julia Chadaga, Nadya Clayton, Erich Lippman, Miller, Roslye Ultan, and Masha Zavialova, organized the fourth annual Interdisciplinary Student Research Symposium at the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis. This event took place in connection with the exhibition *Unknown Fabergé: New Finds and Rediscoveries*.

Joan Titus was awarded an NEH Fellowship for 2017-2018 on her project regarding Dmitry Shostakovich, cultural politics, narration, and music, titled "Dmitry Shostakovich and Music for Stalinist Cinema, 1936-1953." This fellowship award follows a 2016 NEH Summer Stipend, and builds on the research funded by the Stipend. <https://www.neh.gov/divisions/research/grant-news/fellowships-2016>

Katherine Verdery received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bucharest, in October 2016. Also in the planning stages is one from Babeş-Bolyai University, which awarded Doctor Honoris Causa to **Gail Kligman** in May 2017.

Milada Anna Vachudova has been named a [Jean Monnet Chair in EU Studies](#).



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in Moscow, Vladimir, and St. Petersburg, as well as Almaty, Kazakhstan.

- ***BALKAN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE** Combining highly-individualized academic programming with structured overseas immersion, BLI enables students to make rapid gains in language proficiency and cultural knowledge while living and studying in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, or Serbia.
- ***EURASIAN REGIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM** Providing high-quality language instruction, specially-designed cultural programs, and expert logistical support, ERLP offers participants the opportunity to study one of more than 20 less commonly taught languages in 9 Eurasian Countries. Languages include: Armenian, Azeri, Chechen, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Pashto, Persian (Dari, Farsi, Tajiki), Romanian, Tatar, Ukrainian, and Uzbek.

 www.acStudyAbroad.org

*Funding for select American Councils Study Abroad programs is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, and the U.S. Department of State's program for research and training on eastern Europe and the independent states of the former soviet union. For more information on financial aid visit: www.acstudyabroad.org/financialaid 

2017 Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship Recipients

The Cohen–Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship (CTDRF) Program for Russian Historical Studies supports the next generation of US scholars to conduct their doctoral dissertation research in Russia. The CTDRF Program is sponsored by the KAT Charitable Foundation, which we thank for its generous support.



Simon Belokowsky, History, Georgetown University

“Internal Migration: Rural Migrants to Russophone Cities in the Post-Thaw Period”

More than a million people moved annually from rural areas to the cities of the RSFSR in the 1960s and 1970s. In the dramatic case of Belgorod oblast, more than 60 percent of rural youth disappeared from

the census rolls between 1959 and 1970 alone, having left for better opportunities found in the province’s growing cities. My dissertation analyzes the ways these rural migrants adjusted to their new environments, approaching urbanization as a long-term process of social and cultural acclimation rather than merely as a physical shift of population. With the nearby cities of Belgorod and Sumy as the focus of my investigation, I identify the changes in worldview and social practices that marked a transition to the city. At a fundamental level, I am interested in the way rural individuals operated in the space of meanings, symbols, and practices that constituted their habitus.



Gabrielle Cornish, Musicology, Eastman School of Music/ University of Rochester

“Listening for Utopia: Music, Technology, and Everyday Life in the Soviet Union, 1960-1990”

Although musicology has dealt with the technological cultures of music, this work has largely centered on

Western Europe. Meanwhile, recent studies of Soviet music in the post-war period have largely focused on the stylistic features of art music. These approaches overlook socialism as a lived experience in which “ordinary” people engaged with music as a part of everyday life. Without a broader analysis of music’s material cultures, we undervalue the impact of socialist economic systems, ultimately leading to a one-sided understanding of music’s function in the Soviet Union. In my dissertation, argue that musical technology contributed to changing conceptions of a private sphere, individual agency, and personal leisure during late socialism. Musical technology in a broad sense—new instruments like synthesizers, DIY recording and broadcasting devices, and consumer audio products—enabled new modes of musical production, dissemination, and consumption. My project thus places music within a discursive network of state, communal, and individual experiences under Khrushchev’s utopian “fully realized communism” and Brezhnev’s more pragmatic “actually existing socialism.”



Kathryn David, History, New York University

“Russian Orthodoxy and Soviet Nationalities Policy: Religion and Nation in the Postwar USSR”

As the events of 1946 demonstrate, religion was an important field of contestation for both national activists in Russia and Ukraine and officials of the Soviet state. My project places the 1946 “reunion” as a new chapter in the process of

defining Ukraine. The promotion of Russian Orthodoxy as an official Soviet policy, even during periods of “scientific atheism” in the 1960s and 1970s, to enact what was in effect a Ukrainian nationality policy shows that religion and nationality were not closed off from each other. I will explore the initial events and later reinforcement of the religious “reunion” through two interconnected questions. First, how did state-sponsored conversion create new connections between religious ritual and Soviet state practice? Second, how did religion become a register through which to classify and thus create new categories of people in West Ukraine? Inclusion and exclusion by means of religious tactics redefined Ukrainian-ness, Russian-ness and the categorization of West Ukrainian space.



Joy Neumeyer, History, UC, Berkeley

“Dead Empire: Visions of the End in Late Socialism”

In the late Soviet Union’s most popular songs, stories, and films, characters were shot, drowned, suffocated, and stabbed. In the 1970s, Soviet culture was obsessed with death. My research will take the pulse of late

socialism, weaving together images of the gerontocracy, popular health discourse, and cultural productions, examining who was dying and where in what would turn out to be the final years of empire. Why were sickness, decay, and death such a central part of the culture? My research will be a fresh entry in the historical debate about stagnation in the Soviet Union. The traditional “stagnation paradigm” holds that Soviet society in the long 1970s between Brezhnev’s 1964 assumption of power and Gorbachev’s perestroika was characterized by inertia in the party and state and cynical disillusionment among the citizenry. My dissertation considers the aging of the country’s political leadership together with its cultural effervescence. I propose returning to the stagnation paradigm to place it on a meaningful new foundation—one that explores why fantasies about death occupied a central part of the late Soviet imagination, and what this may have meant for the fate of the system itself.

In Memoriam

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former Carter administration national security adviser, died on May 26, 2017. He was 89.

Brzezinski was born March 28, 1928, in Warsaw, Poland, and was educated in Canada. He studied for a diplomatic career at McGill University. His postgraduate work at Harvard University focused on the study of the Soviet Union, and he became an expert on Communism. He published *The Permanent Purge: Politics in Soviet Totalitarianism* in 1956. After teaching at Harvard from 1953-60, Brzezinski accepted a faculty position at Columbia University. In 1961, he was named director of the newly established Research Institute on Communist Affairs, which sponsored the publication of *Political Power: USA/USSR* (1964) and published *Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technetronic Era* (1970). In addition, Brzezinski was one of AAASS' earliest members and served on its Board from 1966-68.

In 1976, President Jimmy Carter named Brzezinski as his national security adviser. His work in the Carter administration is well known. He provided insight and advice during the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. He participated in the negotiations between Egypt and Israel that led to the historic Camp David Accords in 1978. He also worked to normalize relations with communist China and played a role in the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) with the Soviet Union.

Following the end of the Carter administration, Brzezinski returned to teaching but remained an influential figure and expert in international relations and published many books on US foreign policy, US-Soviet relations, and global leadership.

Excerpted from: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestate/obituary.aspx?n=zbigniew-brzezinski&pid=185638009#sthash.TlioDUVU.dpuf>



Hugh McLean died on January 14, 2017, at the age of 91.



McLean was a professor of Russian literature in the University of California, Berkeley's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures from 1968 to 1994 and continued to teach as an emeritus professor for many years after his retirement.

McLean, born in Denver, Colorado, graduated from the Taft School in 1942 and began college at Yale University

as an English major. In 1943 Yale entered a wartime mode and the students attended classes year-round, in uniform. Having enlisted in the US Navy at 17, McLean entered a Russian language program at the navy language school. After the war ended in September 1945, McLean was then sent by the Navy to Frankfurt and Vienna as part of the allied occupation forces to serve as a Russian translator and, as the Cold War descended, to gather intelligence on the Soviet military. On returning to Yale in 1946, he changed his major to Russian and graduated with the class of 1947.

McLean then entered graduate school at Columbia University, where he met the scholar who was to become his mentor, renowned linguist Roman Jakobson. After completing his MA, McLean followed Jakobson to Harvard University, where he was a Junior Fellow and obtained his PhD. After a sabbatical year in London, McLean settled in Chicago, where he founded the University of Chicago's Slavic Department. In 1968, McLean accepted a position at the University of California, Berkeley, where he served on the faculty and in the administration as Dean of Humanities and, later, Provost. As a scholar he published widely on Russian authors, including Tolstoy, Gogol, Chekov, and his specialty, Nikolai Leskov.

McLean served on the AAASS Board of Directors from 1965-1967.

Excerpted from the San Francisco Chronicle, January 29, 2017 - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?pid=183744245#sthash.00atTWNJ.dpuf>

Publications

American Girls in Red Russia: Chasing the Soviet Dream, by Julia Mickenberg, was published by University of Chicago Press in April 2017.

As Mickenberg uncovers in *American Girls in Red Russia*, there is a forgotten counterpoint to the story of the Lost Generation. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, Russian revolutionary ideology attracted many women, including suffragists, reformers, educators, journalists, and artists, as well as curious travelers. Some were famous, like Isadora Duncan or Lillian Hellman; some were committed radicals, though more were just intrigued by the “Soviet experiment.” But all came to Russia in search of social arrangements that would be more equitable, just, and satisfying. And most in the end were disillusioned, some by the mundane realities, others by horrifying truths.

In April 2017, Academic Studies Press published *Andrey Bely’s “Petersburg”: A Centennial Celebration*, edited by Olga M. Cooke and foreword by Thomas R. Beyer Jr.

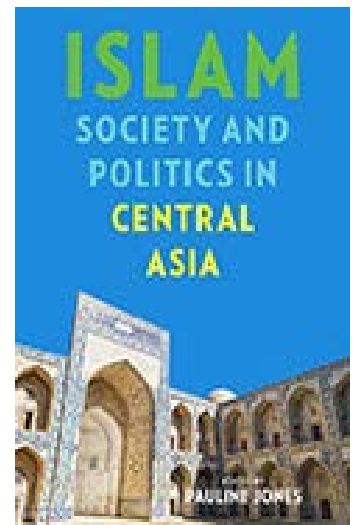
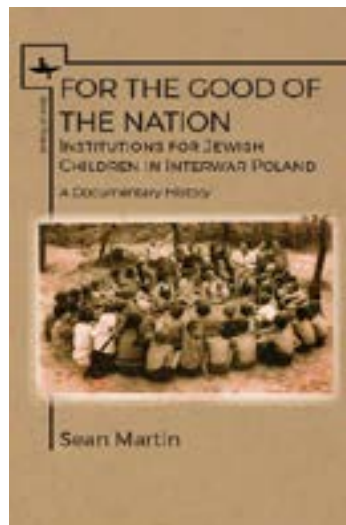
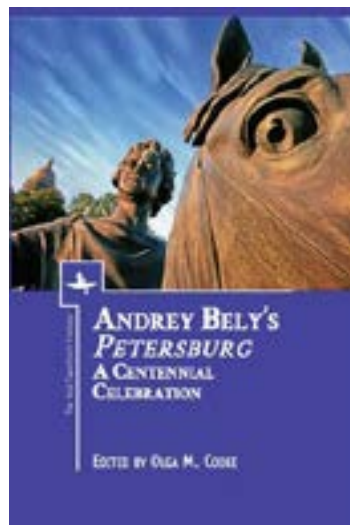
Celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of Andrey Bely’s *Petersburg*, this volume offers a cross-section of essays that address the most pertinent aspects of the 1916 masterpiece. Contributors included ASEES members Maria Carlson, “Andrei Bely’s Astral Novel: A Theosophical Reading of Petersburg”; Charlene Castellano, “Synesthesia as Apocalypse in Andrey Bely’s Petersburg”; and Timothy Langen, “Petersburg as a Historical Novel.”

In March 2017, Academic Studies Press published *For the Good of the Nation: Institutions for Jewish Children in Interwar Poland*, by Sean Martin.

Tens of thousands of Jewish children were orphaned during World War I and in the subsequent years of conflict. In response, Jewish leaders in Poland established CENTOS, the Central Union of Associations for Jewish Orphan Care. Through CENTOS, social workers and other professionals cooperated to offer Jewish children the preparation necessary to survive during a turbulent period. They established new organizations that functioned beyond the authority of the recognized Jewish community and with the support of Polish officials. The work of CENTOS exemplifies the community’s goal to build a Jewish future. Translations of sources from CENTOS publications in Yiddish and Polish describe the lives of the orphaned Jewish children and the tireless efforts of adults to better their circumstances.

The University of Pittsburgh Press published *Islam, Society, and Politics in Central Asia*, edited by Pauline Jones, in March 2017.

During the 1990s, there was a general consensus that Central Asia was witnessing an Islamic revival after independence, and that this occurrence would follow similar events throughout the Islamic world in the prior two decades, which had negative effects on both social and political development. Twenty years later, we are



still struggling to fully understand the transformation of Islam in a region that has evolved through a complex and dynamic process, involving diversity in belief and practice, religious authority, and political intervention. This volume seeks to shed light on these crucial questions by bringing together an international group of scholars to offer a fresh perspective on Central Asian states and societies.

The chapters analyze four distinct categories: the everyday practice of Islam across local communities; state policies toward Islam; how religious actors influence communities and subsequent communal responses to state regulations; and how knowledge of and interaction with the larger Islamic world is shaping Central Asia's current Islamic revival and state responses.

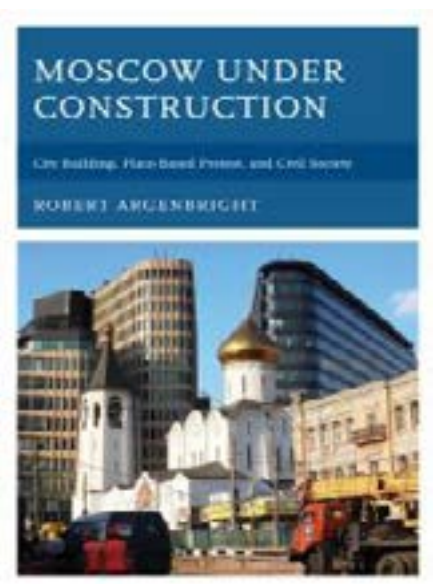
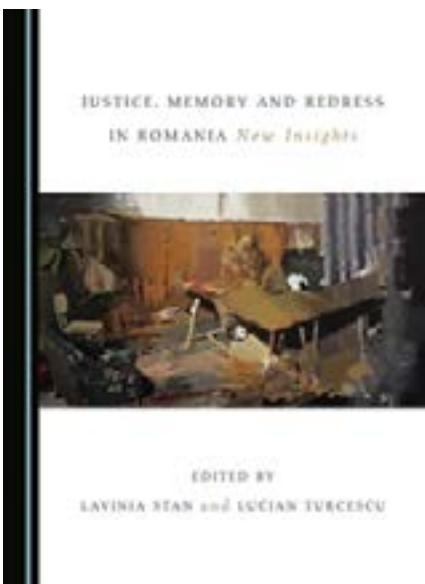
Justice, Memory and Redress in Romania: New Insights (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), edited by Lavinia Stan & Lucian Turcescu, argues that important insights emerge when analyzing a country with a moderate record of coming to terms with its communist past. Taking a broad definition of transitional justice as their starting point, contributors provide fresh assessments of the history commission, court trials, public identifications of former communist perpetrators, commemorations, and unofficial artistic projects that seek to address and redress the legacies of communist human rights violations. Theoretical and practical questions regarding the continuity of state agencies, the sequencing of initiatives, their advantages and limitations, the reasons why some reckoning programs are enacted and others are not, and these measures' efficacy in promoting truth and justice are answered throughout the volume. Contributors include scholars from Romania, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, and current and former leaders of key Romanian transitional justice institutions.

Manele in Romania: Cultural Expression and Social Meaning in Balkan Popular Music, edited by Margaret Beissinger, Speranța Rădulescu, and Anca Giurchescu (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), is a collection of articles exploring and documenting, from social, political, musical, and textual perspectives, the *manea*—an immensely popular cultural phenomenon that has remained “in fashion” among lower- and middle-class inhabitants of Romania for decades yet has proved to be a matter of great controversy among more elite Romanians who view the genre as vulgar and “alien”.

In 2011, several of the authors taught a course at the National University of Music in Bucharest titled “The Manele in the Romanian Public Debate: Transition, Democracy, the Romani Minority, and the Reconstruction of National Identity.” The course was scrutinized by the media, contested by music professors, but well supported by students. Because of the timely but controversial nature of the course, the research results have been transformed into a collective volume. <http://manele-in-romania.ro/summary.php>

Lexington Books published *Moscow under Construction: City Building, Place-Based Protest, and Civil Society*, by Robert Argenbright in July 2016.

This book explores the growth of place-based opposition to destructive redevelopment practices in Moscow and the consequent changes in city's governance regime. The groups of citizens discussed in this study have struggled to defend homes, neighborhoods, heritage buildings, and historic districts, and in the process they have built up civil society and advanced democratization. Heritage preservationists and other aggrieved Muscovites have organized themselves into “initiative groups” and “social associations” to protect specific places in the city



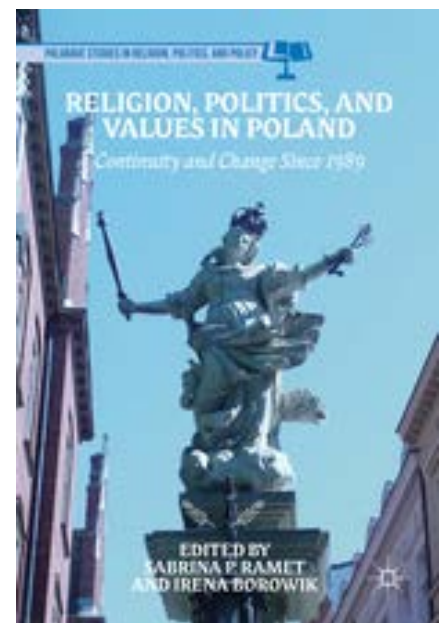
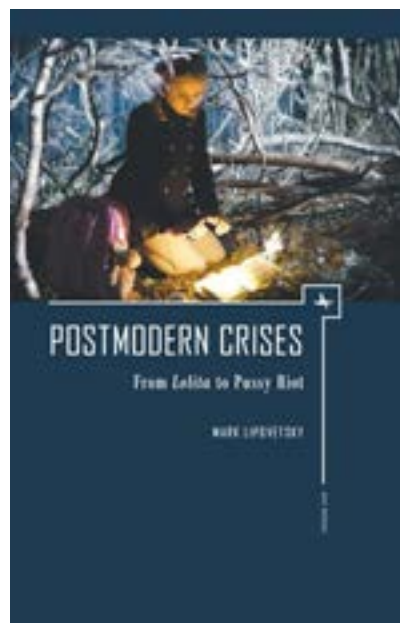
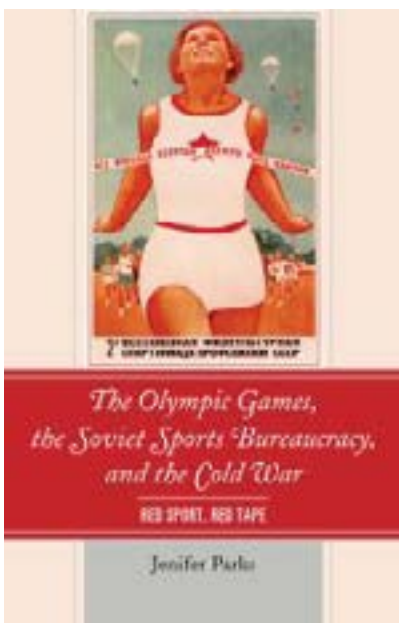
and to influence the planning process. Their activities also have caused Moscow's city government to shift along the political spectrum away from highly authoritarian and opaque habits of ruling toward a more open and collaborative governance regime.

The Olympic Games, the Soviet Sports Bureaucracy, and the Cold War: Red Sport, Red Tape, by Jenifer Parks, was published by Lexington Books in December 2016. This study provides a longitudinal investigation of the middle levels of Soviet bureaucracy responsible for overseeing Olympic Sport during the Cold War. This book argues that behind the Soviet elite athletes, sports administrators worked within international sports organizations and the Soviet party-state to increase Soviet chances of success and make Soviet representatives a respected voice in international sports. In the process, Soviet sports contributed to the evolution of Olympic sport, integrating the Soviet Union into an emerging global culture, and contributing to transformations within the Soviet Union. Back home in the USSR, the Sports Committee's leading personalities contributed to the professionalization of party-state apparatus. Standing at the intersection between state and society, between Soviet political goals and their execution, and between Olympic sport and Communist ideology, Soviet sports administrators demonstrated ideological drive, political savvy, and professional pragmatism, providing the impetus, expertise, and experience to transform broad ideological constructs into specific policies and procedures in the Soviet Union and realize Soviet propaganda and foreign policy goals in international and Olympic sports

Postmodern Crises: From Lolita to Pussy Riot, by Mark Lipovetsky, was published by Academic Studies Press in January 2017. This book collects Lipovetsky's previously published and yet unpublished articles on Russian literature and film. Written in different years, they focus on cultural and aesthetic crises that, taken together, constitute the postmodern condition of Russian culture. The reader will find here articles about classic subversive texts (such as Nabokov's *Lolita*), performances (Pussy Riot), and recent, but also subversive, films. Other articles discuss such authors as Vladimir Sorokin, such sociocultural discourses as the discourse of scientific intelligentsia; post-Soviet adaptations of Socialist Realism, and contemporary trends of "complex" literature, as well as literary characters turned into cultural tropes (the Strugatskys' progressors). The book will be interesting for teachers and scholars of contemporary Russian literature and culture.

Religion, Politics, and Values in Poland: Continuity and Change Since 1989, edited by Sabrina Ramet and Irena Borowik, was published by Palgrave in early 2017.

This volume examines how the Catholic Church has brought its values into the political sphere and, in the process, alienated some of the younger generation. Since the disintegration of the communist one-party state at the end of the 1980s, the Catholic Church has pushed its agenda to ban abortion, introduce religious instruction in the state schools, and protect Poland from secular influences emanating from the European Union. As one of the consequences, Polish society has become polarized along religious lines, with conservative forces seeking to counter the influence of the European Union and liberals on the left trying to protect secular values.



This volume casts a wide net in topics, with chapters on Pope John Paul II, Radio Maryja, religious education, the Church's campaign against what it calls "genderism," and the privatization of religious belief, among other topics.

The Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700 (Routledge, 2017), edited by Irina Livezeanu and Árpád von Klimó, explores the origins and evolution of modernity in this region. Written by an international team of contributors that reflects the increasing globalization and pluralism of East Central European studies, chapters discuss key themes such as: economic development; the relationship between religion and ethnicity; the intersection between culture and imperial, national, wartime, and revolutionary political agendas; migration; women's and gender history; ideologies and political movements; the legacy of communism; and the ways in which various states in East Central Europe deployed and were formed by the politics of memory and commemoration. This book uses new methodologies in order to fundamentally reshape perspectives on the development of East Central Europe over the past three centuries.

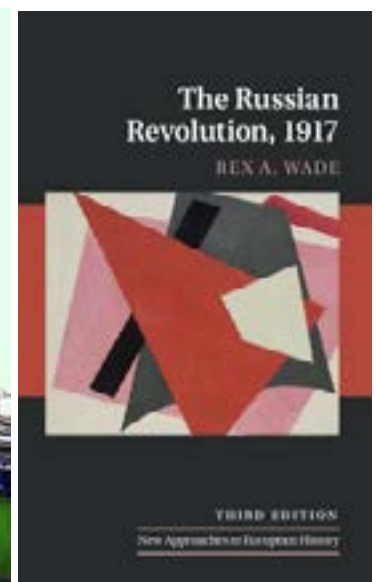
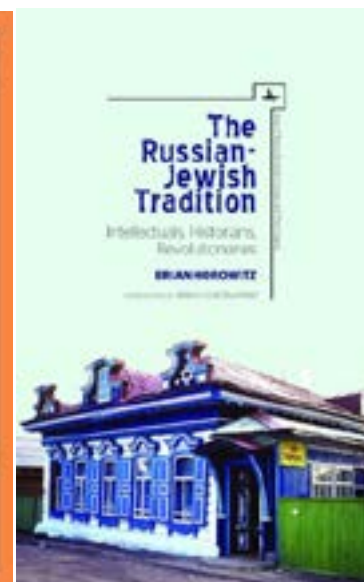
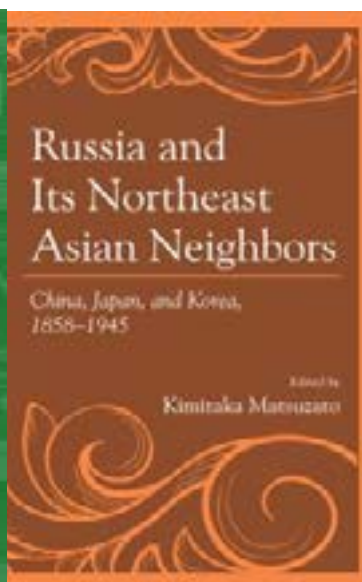
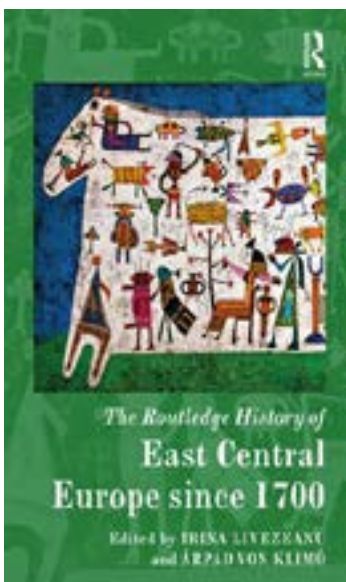
Kimitaka Matsuzato edited *Russia and Its Northeast Asian Neighbors: China, Japan, and Korea, 1858–1945*, which was released by Lexington Books in December 2016. This collection elucidates how Russia's expansion affected early Meiji Japan's policy towards Korea and the late Qing Empire's Manchurian reform. The book describes daily life of the emigre Russians' community in Harbin after 1917 and investigates mutual perceptions of the Russians and Japanese through the prism of the descriptions of the Japanese Imperial House in Russian newspapers, Russian POWs' memoirs in and after the Russo-Japanese War. The first Soviet ambassador in Japan, V. Kopp, proposed to restore the division of spheres of interest between

Russia and Japan during the tsarist era and thus conflicted People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, G. Chicherin, the Soviet ambassador in Beijing, L. Karakhan, and Stalin, since the latter group was more loyal to the cause of China's national liberation. The contributors argue that it is difficult to understand the modern history of Northeast Asia without taking the Russian factor seriously. Additional contributors included ASEES members Andreas Renner and Yaroslav Shulatov.

The Russian-Jewish Tradition: Intellectuals, Historians, Revolutionaries, by Brian Horowitz (with an introduction by William Craft Brumfield), was published by Academic Studies Press in February 2017.

This book argues that Jews were not a people apart but rather culturally integrated in Russian society. In their diasporic cultural creations Russia's Jews employed the general themes of artists under tsars and Soviets, but they modified these themes to fit their own needs. The result was a hybrid, Russian-Jewish culture, unique and dynamic. Few today consider that Jewish Eastern Europe, the "old world", was in fact a power incubator of modern Jewish consciousness. Horowitz presents essays on Jewish education (the heder), historiography, literature and Jewish philosophy that intersect with contemporary interests on the big questions of Jewish life. The book helps us grasp the meaning of secular Judaism and gives models from the past in order to stimulate ideas for the present.

The Russian Revolution, 1917, third edition, by Rex A. Wade, was published by Cambridge University Press in February 2017. The book presents an overview of the revolution from its beginning in February 1917 through the numerous political crises under Kerensky to the victory of Lenin and the Bolsheviks in October and dispersal of the Constituent



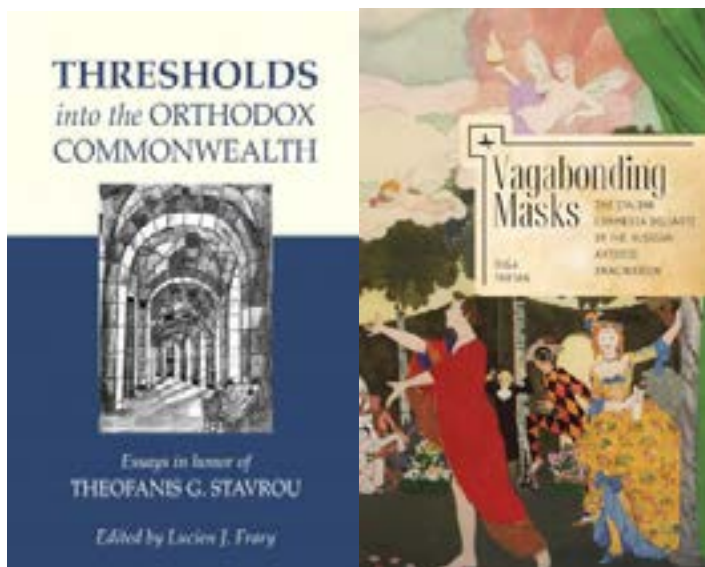
Assembly in January 1918. The revised and expanded third edition introduces new approaches to the political, social and cultural history of the Revolution, incorporating people and places too often left out of the story, including women, national minority peoples, peasantry, and front soldiers. The third edition has been updated to include new scholarship on the revolution.

Thresholds into the Orthodox Commonwealth: Essays in Honor of Theofanis G. Stavrou, edited by Lucien J. Frary, was published by Slavica in 2017.

This volume is a tribute to Stavrou, Professor of Russian and Near Eastern History and Director of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Minnesota. An award-winning teacher and mentor, Professor Stavrou is well known for his enthusiasm for collaborative scholarship and wide-ranging expertise in Russian history and culture, Eastern Orthodox Church history, Modern Greek literature, and other fields.

Vagabonding Masks: The Italian Commedia dell'Arte in the Russian Artistic Imagination, by Olga Partan, was published by Academic Studies Press in March 2017.

The iconic masks of the Italian commedia dell'arte—Harlequin, Pierrot, Colombina, Pulcinella, and others—have been vagabonding the roads of Russian cultural history for more than three centuries. This book explores how these masks, and the artistic principles of the commedia dell'arte that they embody, have profoundly affected the Russian artistic imagination, providing a source of inspiration for leading Russian artists as diverse as nineteenth-century writer Nikolai Gogol, modernist theater director Evgenii Vakhtangov, Vladimir Nabokov, and the empress of Russian popular culture Alla Pugacheva. The author presents a new perspective on this topic, showing how the commedia dell'arte has nourished a rich cultural tradition in Russia.



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Institutional Member News

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER

Title VIII Fellowships

[Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants](#) allow US 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, DC area, while in residence at the Kennan Institute. The next deadline for these grants is **July 1**.

Please see the 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, DC for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, DC, 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, DC, 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. There are no citizenship requirements for this grant. Please note applicants have an option to apply for the fellowship as individuals or as part of a team. If applying as a team of two (or three) applicants, the applicants must be citizens of at least two different countries. The goal of such joint fellowships is to promote collaborative research projects among US, Russian, and Ukrainian experts. George F. Kennan Fellowship Teams will: produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications; present work at DC, Russia, and/or Ukraine events; conduct meetings and engage

with policymakers in DC.

Competitions for the fellowships will be held twice yearly with the following application deadlines: **March 1** and **September 1**. Applicants must submit a completed application – please see our website for more details: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan-institute-fellowships-and-internships>

The George F. Kennan Fellowship offers a monthly stipend of \$4,000, 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 appointments within one year of accepting the fellowship.

Scholars in Residence

The Kennan Institute welcomes its current and incoming scholars:

Title VIII Short Term Scholars

Megan Dixon, College of Idaho, “Micro-Scale’ Collaboration in Sino-Soviet and Russo-Chinese Urban Planning”

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Maxim Matusevich, Seton Hall University, "Journeys of Hope: African American Travelers in Search for the Soviet Dream"

Maria Sonevitsky, Bard College, "Thank you, Comrade Stalin, for our Happy Childhood!: A Study of Children's Music in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic"

Title VIII Summer Research Scholars

Jonathan Hunt, University of Southampton, "An Exceptional Partnership: The United States, the Soviet Union, and Nuclear Non-Proliferation in the 1960s"

Alice Underwood, Stanford University, "Constructing Comrade and Citizen: Art, State, and the Enemy in Two Cold Wars"

George F. Kennan Fellows

Oleg Manaev, University of Tennessee, "Strengthening Legitimacy by Reshuffling Social Stratification in the 'Slavic Triangle.'"

George F. Kennan Expert

Yuri Teper, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Implications of Israel's Ambiguous Relationship with Russia for US relations with Israel"

CfP: 3rd MEETING OF THE NOTRE DAME WORKSHOP ON THE HISTORY OF 1917 REVOLUTION

The Program in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Notre Dame is pleased to invite scholars from all disciplines to submit proposals for papers at the 3rd meeting of the Notre Dame workshop on the history of 1917 Revolution, which will be held at Tel Aviv University on May 26-30, 2018. Those interested in participating should contact the workshop convener, Semion Lyandres, at slyandre@nd.edu. Graduate students and recent PhDs are especially encouraged to submit proposals. The workshop is being organized in association with the Cummings Center for Russian and East European Studies at Tel Aviv University and The Israeli Inter-University Academic Partnership in Russian and East European Studies. The organizers will cover the costs of attending the workshop, including airfare and accommodation. Please submit your proposal of a maximum of 500 words and a short CV to: slyandre@nd.edu, by July 1, 2017.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN TO HOST: 1917/2017 EVENT

"1917/2017: Ten Days that Shook the World, Ten Days that Shake the Campus" details a series of events taking place on the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign campus in Fall 2017. These events will bring together scholars from around the world, the nation, and the campus, in order to analyze the Russian Revolution

of 1917 in a global context, by examining its immediate impact, elaborating its legacies, and tracing its ripples to the present day. As the title of the program suggests, we have ten "days" of events planned throughout the 2017 Fall Semester. Like Soviet festivals that were considered a singular day regardless of how long they actually lasted, each of our "days" is comprised of a number of activities lasting from anywhere between a single night to an entire semester. <http://19172017.weebly.com/>

ELLISON CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYMPOSIUM DEDICATED TO GUGGENHEIM FELLOW WILLIAM C. BRUMFIELD

On May 6, the Ellison Center at the University of Washington and the University Library held a symposium dedicated to the work of Guggenheim Fellow William C. Brumfield. The symposium discussed the role of documentation in the study of Russian architecture in relation to other cultures. The event was held in conjunction with an exhibit of Brumfield's photographs, Architecture at the End of the Earth. The symposium also featured the public launch of an archival site—the William Brumfield Russian Architecture Digital Collection—funded in part by NEH and supported by the University of Washington Libraries.

<https://jsis.washington.edu/ellisoncenter/news/william-craft-brumfield-architecture-russian-north/>

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In addition to articles and news columns, NewsNet also features a limited number of advertisements from various organizations presenting scholarly publications, products, services, or opportunities of interest to those in the Russian, Eurasian, and Central European fields. For more information, [please see our website](#).

2017 National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest, sponsored by ACTR. This year 1,326 essays were submitted from 67 universities, colleges, and institutions across the nation.

Students wrote on the topic «Важный человек в моей жизни».

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 1)

Lauren Kimpel, Temple University
Brandon Brown, Portland State U

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 1)

David Partridge, Temple University
Alexander Schlegel, Temple University

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 1)

Sebastian Reyes, Harvard University
Rylan Smolik, U of Wisconsin at Madison
Ayeon Lee, Northeastern University
Xan John Holt, Columbia University

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 2)

Michael Huelsman, Portland Community College

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 2)

Ian Fisher, Haverford College
Jaya Puglise, Columbia University

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 2)

Stephanie Tignor Borgani, Columbia U
Amanda Durfee, Dartmouth College
Clare Louise Jamieson, Columbia U
Martina Pagliari, New York University

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Lincoln Karchner Brigham Young U

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 3)

Garrett Bergeson, Brigham Young U
Devin Fuller, Brigham Young University

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 3)

Brian Wright, Defense Language Institute
Robert Ian Abbott, Columbia University
Grady Vaughan, Rhodes College
Miranda Garbaciak, Indiana University

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 4)

Gabriella Hoffman, Portland State University

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 4)

Hunter Behrens, Defense Language Institute, CE, DTRA
Augustus Gilchrist, Bowdoin College

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 4)

Melvin M. Thomas, Georgetown U
Isabelle Desisto, Harvard University
Lucie Runia, Harvard University
Hope Ovcharenko, Portland State University

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 1)

Kristina Pavlovic, New York University

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 1)

Jacqueline Kopaygorodsky, Franklin & Marshall College

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 1)

Stevan Petrovic, Harvard University

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 2)

Anja Malesevic, Barnard College

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 2)

Aleksandra Milcheva, Harvard University

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 3)

Monika Bujak, Columbia University

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 3)

Angelina Koliy, Purdue University

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 3)

Lesya Yarema, Georgetown University

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 4)

Iryna O. Varshchuk, U of Maryland

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 4)

Stefan Curcic, US Air Force Academy

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 4)

Olha Brezden, U of Illinois at Chicago

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Lev Roshal, University of Rochester

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Ekaterina Clark, UCLA
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Nicole Bugrim, UCLA
Maria Jarostchuk, Dartmouth College
Jessica Nebrat, Harvard University

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Rachel Kandyba, Rutgers University
Rachel Valentina Sommers, Columbia U
Maxine Pokras, UCLA
Andrey Rublyov, Columbia University

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Alfiya Akhmed, University of Maryland
Timothy Messen, Dartmouth College

Silver Medal (Category C, Level 3)

Veronica Marie Yevsukov, U of Maryland

Bronze Medal (Category C, Level 3)

Valeriya Timoshenko, Rutgers University

Gold Medal (Category C, Level 4)

Ksenia Ryzhova, Dartmouth College

Silver Medal (Category C, Level 4)

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Khurshed Madaminov, Defense

Language Institute, CE, DTRA

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Christopher Hodgman, U of Rochester
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Mariia Kononova, U of North Texas
Maria Shaposhnikova, Brandeis U

Silver Medal (Category C, Level 5)

Veronika Arkhipova, U of Mississippi
Aliya Mukhametzhanova, U of North Texas

Bronze Medal (Category C, Level 5)

Diana Artashesyan, UCLA
Yan Shneyderman, Brandeis University
Iana Kazantseva, UCLA

ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate is now open. If you wish to nominate your best sophomore or junior secondary school Russian student for this award, you may do so until June 30, 2017.

The school that has more than 100 students may nominate two students (sophomore or junior)

Your membership in ACTR must be current, but there is no fee for participation in this program.

For the guidelines and to submit your nomination go to

<http://www.actr.org/russian-scholar-laureate-award-rsla.html>

Affiliate Group News

AATSEEL: CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 2018 CONFERENCE

The AATSEEL National Meeting is a forum for scholarly exchange of ideas in all areas of Slavic and East/Central European languages, literatures, linguistics, cultures, and pedagogy. The Program Committee invites scholars in these and related areas to form panels around specific topics, organize roundtable discussions, propose forums on instructional materials, and/or submit proposals for individual presentations for the 2018 Conference, which will be held on February 1-4, 2018 in Washington, DC. The conference regularly includes panels in the following areas: Linguistics, Pedagogy and Second Language Acquisition, and Literature and Culture.

The Program Committee will accept proposals for: individual paper; fully-formed panel; roundtable; forum; poster presentation [Click here to submit a proposal](#). Please consult the [2018 Submission Guidelines](#) in preparation to submit a proposal.

Proposals for individual papers must identify a problem that needs solving in the fields of linguistics, pedagogy, literature, and/or culture, or present a hypothesis that sheds light on the interpretation of a text or body of texts. It should outline the author's plan for defending the paper's hypothesis or advancing an interpretation. An abstract should provide minimal background to the issue addressed in the paper, unless the background itself is the issue, and should give a brief suggestion of the paper's conclusions.

Proposals for panels should describe the rationale for bringing the individual papers together as a panel and brief description of how each paper fits into the panel's theme. Proposals must also contain an abstract for each individual paper in the panel. Panel proposals may be composed of: a chair and 3 (or 4) single- or co-authored papers or a chair and 3 single- or co-authored papers and 1 discussant. **Proposal deadline July 1, 2017.**

All conference participants must be AATSEEL members in good standing (or request a membership waiver). Non-North-American scholars and non-Slavists may apply to the Executive Director, Elizabeth Durst, for exemption from the membership

requirement at the time the abstract is submitted.

Colleagues from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union may email aatseel@usc.edu for exemption from the registration requirement at the time of proposal submission. In addition, poets participating in the Poetry Reading who are not Slavists and are not taking part elsewhere in the program are exempt from both the conference registration and membership requirements.

Cfs: AWSS 2017 MARY ZIRIN PRIZE

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the Mary Zirin Prize in recognition of an independent scholar in the field of Slavic Studies. The award of \$500 is named for Mary Zirin, the founder of Women East-West. The Prize aims to recognize the achievements of independent scholars and to encourage their continued scholarship and service in the fields of Slavic or Central and Eastern European Women's Studies. The Committee encourages the nomination of candidates at all career stages. An independent scholar is defined as a scholar who is not employed at an institution of higher learning, or an employee of a university or college who is not eligible to compete for institutional support for research (for example, those teaching under short-term contracts or working in administrative posts). AWSS welcomes nominations from CIS and Central and Eastern Europe. Nominations are due **September 1, 2017**. Nominations must include: (1) a nomination letter of no



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more than two-pages double-spaced; (2) the nominee's current c.v.; and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar's contribution to the field, as well as work in progress. Nominations should be sent to Marilyn Smith at msmith@fivecolleges.edu.

18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY (CESS)

The CESS 18th Annual Conference will host panels relating to all aspects of humanities and social science scholarship. The geographic domain of Central Eurasia encompasses Central Asia, the Caucasus, Iran, Afghanistan, Tibet, Mongolia, Siberia, Inner Asia, the Black Sea region, the Volga region, and East and Central Europe. Practitioners and scholars in all fields with an interest in this region are encouraged to participate.

The CESS Awards Ceremony will be held at the Annual Conference, recognizing the best Book in History and Humanities, Graduate Student Paper, and Public Outreach Award. Details of how to apply to be considered for one of these awards will be made available at <http://www.centraleurasia.org/awards>.

The Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies in UW's Jackson School of International Studies is the principal host of the 2017 CESS conference at the University of Washington. Hotel Deca is the official conference hotel. For inquiries regarding the conference, contact CESS at: info@centraleurasia.org.

THE CESS PUBLIC OUTREACH AWARD 2017

The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) is delighted to announce that the call for nominations for the Public Outreach Award 2017 is now open. The Award is presented to an individual, a group of individuals or an organization in recognition for extraordinary work that contributes to advancing and making accessible knowledge of Central Eurasia to a broad audience. The award is accompanied by a monetary prize of \$500.

An interdisciplinary panel of three scholars of Central Eurasia, appointed by the CESS Executive Board, will consider the nominations for the Public Outreach Award on grounds of the accessibility and impact of the contribution in service (broadly defined) to the field of Central Eurasian Studies.

Guidelines for the competition are as follows:

- Monographs, edited volumes, audio-visual material, news/blog sites, films, documentaries, and similar resources that are extraordinarily useful in educating non-specialists about Central Eurasia are eligible for consideration. Single articles, news stories, blog posts, or travel guides are not eligible. Materials must have been produced, published, or disseminated in the two

(2) years preceding the award deadline.

- Nominations may be made by the producer of the material or someone who has used the material and found it useful. Nominations should include a description of how the material constitutes Public Outreach and, when relevant, **three copies** of the nominated material must be received by the published deadline of the competition. Individuals and organizations need not be members of CESS to be nominated, but must become members by the nomination deadline to be considered.

Questions can be emailed to info@centraleurasia.org with the subject line, CESS Public Outreach Award Committee.

Materials relevant to the nomination of the Public Outreach Award should be sent by **June 30, 2017**, to:

- Amanda Wooden, 332 Academic West, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA
- Jeanne Féaux de la Croix, Raum 134, Asien-Orient-Institut, Abteilung Ethnologie, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Burgsteige 11, Schloss Hohentübingen, D-72070 Tübingen, Germany
- Regine Spector, Dept of Political Science, Thompson Hall, 200 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003, USA

CFS: BIENNIAL CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION BEST BOOK PRIZE

The committee will consider books published in 2015 and 2016. To be eligible for consideration, books must be primarily concerned with the history of Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, or any of its peoples within and without its historical boundaries. The field of historical studies will be broadly construed, with books in all fields considered for the prize if they are substantially historical in nature. The prize committee will decide whether a book matches these criteria. Books under consideration must be new works by a single author written originally in the English language. The competition will be open to members and non-members of the CSA. Authors are responsible for providing the committee with the book they wish to enter into the competition.

Books for consideration should be submitted to the review committee by July 15, 2017.

- Frank Henschel, Kurt-Eisner-Str. 50, 04275 Leipzig, Germany
- Karla Huebner, Dept of Art and Art History, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Dayton, OH 45435-0001
- Thomas Ort, Department of History, Queens College/CUNY, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Queens, NY 11367

Questions? Please contact Karla Huebner, calypsospots@gmail.com.

CFS: THE EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ESSA) AWARDS

The Early Slavic Studies Association (ESSA) announces its prizes for best monograph and best article in the field of Early Slavic Studies for 2017. The prize committee is also willing to consider a special award for best translation of primary source material in the field, to be awarded at the committee's discretion.

Books and peer-reviewed articles published in English between September 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017 are eligible for the award. The committee will accept nominations and self-nominations. Authors must be members in good standing of the ESSA. Please contact our secretary, Cynthia M. Vakareliyska vakarel@uoregon.edu, to confirm your eligibility. Please send all nominations to the chair of the committee, Dr. Matthew Romaniello mpr@hawaii.edu

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES NEWS

The Southern Conference on Slavic Studies met in Alexandria, VA from April 6-8, 2017 under the sponsorship of George Mason University. Steve Barnes served as Local Arrangements chair and organized the conference as well as a post-conference excursion. More than 200 participants registered for this meeting; over a 2-day period, 50 panels on a wide variety of subjects were presented.

SCSS was pleased to offer several awards in the following categories: the Richard Stites Senior Scholar Prize went to **Steven Marks** of Clemson University; the Best Book Award written by a member of SCSS went to **Laurie Stoff** of ASU for *Russia's Sisters of Mercy and the Great War:*

More than Binding Men's Wounds, and **George Liber** of the University of Alabama-Birmingham received Honorable Mention for *Total Wars and the Making of Modern Ukraine*. In addition, the Best Student Graduate Paper Award was given to **Louis Porter** (UNC-Chapel Hill under Don Raleigh) for "Communists by Night: International Civil Servants and Daily Life in the Soviet Colony in Paris 1956-1967," while the Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award went to **David Hayter** (Virginia Commonwealth University under Judyth Twigg) for "Beyond the Axis of Convenience: Re-Examining Russian-Chinese Relations and the Search for Multipolarity."

In the SCSS annual elections, Olavi Arens (Armstrong State University-Savannah) completed his term as president and Sharon Kowalsky (Texas A&M University-Commerce) took the gavel as incoming president. Elizabeth Skomp (University of the South) will serve as president elect. Steve Barnes (George Mason) and Yvonne Howell (University of Richmond) were elected to the Executive Council.

SCSS was pleased to be able to meet in conjunction with the Association for Women in Slavic Studies and expect that partnership to continue. Secondly, SCSS enjoyed a post-conference excursion (thanks to Steve Barnes) to the new African-American Museum.

SCSS 2018 is scheduled to meet in Charlotte, NC from March 22-24, with Steve Sabol (University of North Carolina- Charlotte) serving as Local Arrangements chair. Joan Neuberger (University of Texas-Austin) will receive our Richard Stites Senior Scholar Award in 2018

2017 ASEES BOARD ELECTION

We are pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the 2017 election for positions on the ASEES Board of Directors: Vice President/President-Elect and two Members-at-Large, serves three-year terms from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. The Graduate Student Representative serves at two-year term, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. We thank them for their willingness to stand as candidates to serve on the ASEES Board.

Candidates for Vice President / President Elect

Mark Steinberg (History) U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Elizabeth Wood (History) MIT

Candidates for Members-at-Large

Janet Johnson (Political Science) CUNY Brooklyn Jeffrey Kopstein (Political Science) UC Irvine
James Krapfl (History) McGill University (Canada) Conor O'Dwyer (Political Science) U of Florida

Candidates for Graduate Student Representative

Tetyana Dzyadevych (Slavic Studies) U of Illinois at Chicago
Yana Skorobogatov (History) UC Berkeley

For more information on the election including the candidate bios go to: www.aseees.org/about/board-elections
Information on how to vote will be distributed by email to current members of ASEES by mid-June.

Member Spotlight: Svitlana Kryś

Svitlana Kryś is Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies and Assistant Professor at MacEwan University (Canada).

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

I developed an interest in Ukrainian studies as an undergraduate student. I was always interested in my own culture, having been influenced by my mother, who is a teacher of Ukrainian language, literature, and culture, and her passion for her subject. However, my interest in an educator role grew after I participated in a year-long undergraduate exchange program at an American university. As an international student, I found myself in conversations with my peers and other members of the college community, about Ukraine, its newly acquired independence and attempt to position itself in the world, and its ongoing struggle with its Soviet colonial past. This led me to pursue an MA and, subsequently, a doctoral program at the University of Alberta, Canada. As a graduate student instructor I taught Ukrainian language and culture to a mixed group of heritage and second-language speakers, and as a young scholar explored ideas that remained largely unstudied in Ukrainian literary criticism, including the Gothic literary movement in Ukraine. Currently, I continue to help students discover the yet unknown wonders of the Slavic, and specifically the Ukrainian, world through literature, culture, and other media.

How have your interests changed since then?

I received a classic Slavist training during my MA and doctoral programs that aimed to prepare me to teach Ukrainian literature, language, and culture in a Slavic department; however, in my present position, I work as a Ukrainianist and comparative literature/English scholar, integrating Ukrainian Studies into a broader sphere of English literature, comparative literature, and humanities courses. MacEwan does not have a Slavic program, so as the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies, it is my role to develop the study of Ukraine and Eastern Europe as an integral component of larger humanities courses, hoping to reach students who otherwise would not have an opportunity to learn about Ukraine or the Slavic world.

What is your current research/work project?

My current research focuses on the development of the Gothic genre in Ukrainian literature, and I am now working

on a book manuscript, tentatively titled "At the Origins of the Ukrainian Gothic." The book will contribute to the growing body of literature that stresses the international character of Gothicism and investigates the histories of the Gothic literary movement outside of strictly Victorian Britain. My focus is on the unique manner in which Ukrainian Romantics appropriated and utilized West European Gothic techniques in their horror oeuvre. This is an underexplored area in both Ukrainian and Slavic literary scholarship and will contribute to the discipline of comparative literature by drawing theoretical conclusions regarding the development and modification of the Gothic genre in a cultural context where it was not indigenous.

A good part of my academic career has been devoted to scholarly editing and publishing. Recently I became Editor-in-Chief of a peer-reviewed, online periodical *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* (EWJUS), published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. EWJUS is one of a very few publications in North America (and is the only academic journal in Canada) that specialize in Ukrainian Studies. EWJUS presents the Ukrainian humanities and social sciences in comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives and invites contributions on a wide range of subjects. (The first volume under my aegis as editor-in-chief can be found [here](#).)

What do you value about your ASEES membership?

I have been presenting at ASEES conventions since my time as a doctoral student, and I appreciate the diversity and multitude of voices, and the themes and subfields that the conference and membership offer. Panels, plenaries, and social events organized by ASEES affiliate members; book fairs, informal meetings, and conversations with colleagues all offer chances to keep abreast with new developments. I often attend panels on history, political science, intercultural connections, sustainable humanities, and other subjects. I find that participation extends the dimensions of my teaching, helping me to prepare more challenging discussion questions and lectures. I think when students open their eyes to new perspectives on classical works, they begin to understand the relevance of these cultures to their own young, cosmopolitan lives in the 21st century. In the current climate of a liberal arts crisis and the prioritization of career-oriented education over a liberal education, I find the academic dialogue that the ASEES offers to be proof of the vitality, and I hope the sustainability, of the liberal arts.

49th Annual ASEES Convention

November 9-12, 2017

**Theme: Transgressions
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Register by August 11
to receive the early bird
discount

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hotel reservation today; we
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