



NewsNet

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

Celebrating ASEEEES: Reflections on the 1980s Ellen Mickiewicz, Duke University

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of our organization's founding and the 50th Convention, we take time to reflect on our history through the eyes of four AAASS/ASEEEES Past Presidents.

AAASS brought into one professional organization scholars and policy makers working on issues related to the Soviet Union and beyond, including the then-Soviet-dominated countries of Eastern, Central and South Europe. We were (and continue to be) affiliated and unaffiliated scholars, policy makers, media practitioners and critics, and more. We included all relevant disciplines and added emerging ones. I became president in 1988, during turbulent years inside our organization and in the world.

The Cold War appeared to be changing in different directions. The new leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, initiated bold but unsteady actions and pronouncements that puzzled Soviet-watchers. Was this another “cosmetic” change meant to delude the West (as some in a divided US intelligence community thought) or were Gorbachev and his allies in Moscow laying down deeper roots for a

new and different system? What were we to make of the stops and starts, the halting changes of direction, and the obvious internal disagreements among the Soviet Union's political elite? Gorbachev's program of reform, perestroika, sparked a good deal of disagreement in the West about what exactly it entailed, and if the Soviet leader had eventual democracy in mind or just limited production improvements or a step-wise change that got out of hand and roared ahead once controls were loosened. The Red Army withdrew from Afghanistan, and Soviet television for the first time characterized the conflict as a “war” instead of a foreign aid mission to build schools. Television news had not showed the war and even was prohibited from letting the black smoke of bombs be seen in a corner of the home screen. When the war was over, stunned Soviet television viewers saw the agonizing dilemma of returning soldiers, broken and traumatized. It was a favorable time to do some talking about arms control agreements. When the Berlin wall came down, the Soviet army stayed out and Eastern Europe emerged from the Soviet sphere. Soviet republics were also restive; the Soviet Union had very little time left.

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We were a (mostly) American organization at the time. The legacy of the upheavals of the '60s in the United States was still playing out: societal norms were changing. Some of our organization's structures in important respects were out of sync.

Women members had been objecting to what they considered to be unequal treatment, and by the time I took office, the dissatisfaction was organized and demands were more pointed. They did not see parity and demanded greater access to convention panels and other Association events and if refused, they would walk out of the organization and form their own. For the Association I believed it was most importantly a question of justice and fairness. Besides, the exodus of so many fine scholars would leave us functionally wounded and shorn of the richness of our initial mission. I thought we should first find out just how things stood: what the data were on women's participation. I asked Gertrude Schroeder, a respected senior economist, to chair a committee to study the issues. She said to me that she really could not do it, because her work had never focused on gender issues and she didn't know the field. My point, in urging her to take it on, was that her open-mindedness coupled with superb methodological skills and utter fairness were exactly what we needed. The rest of the committee members—a senior male scholar and a more junior female scholar—were also respected members of the Association from different fields. The committee studied participation in conventions, amassing as much data as possible and formulated proposals. The results did support the complaint: data showed a practice of skewed participation. The committee formulated proposals and then presented them to a heavily attended membership meeting. They easily passed. A good number of female scholars decided to form their own monitoring and professional committee *within* AAASS.

As Soviet power receded, new colleagues were coming into the Association. Some had left their country permanently to become a new wave of émigrés; some had temporary or permanent appointments at universities and think tanks; and some were students in doctoral programs and later undergraduates as well. Their research became more easily available and the way to collaboration in research was soon going to be in full swing.

Most important for many scholars, archival research was becoming a more viable option. The situation was not simple. Often pieces were blocked by the bureaucracy or the whole archive could abruptly be declared off-limits to everyone. Scholars could also work in regional archives, if with greater difficulties, often because record-keeping had been careless and disorganized. Still, here was a chance to look at origins.

The Soviet period is just that—only one of the organizing concepts. Over the course of history empires and wars rearranged the map ceaselessly. What, then, makes the countries we study a coherent whole to be fused in an Association? They are not fused, of course, but their commonalities and differences offer opportunities for all disciplines and so many forms of comparison, including comparison of periods. Another new opportunity was about to be offered by history, an opportunity of inestimable value and occurring rarely: the entire Soviet sphere ended at the same time. (Yes, there are differences in the dates of proclaimed statehood, but overall, the break-up of all of it was virtually simultaneous.) A punctuation in history, involving an implosion of governing bodies at all levels and a need to manage significant numbers of ethnicities, offers enormous opportunities for cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research in all the disciplines.

Impressive opportunities have opened up for our fields. We also face constraining barriers. The obvious one is money. The enormous earlier growth of federally funded university centers, travel grants, and dissertation support from university departments and foundations helped to solidify fields with the infusion of new generations; research funding broadened. But our fields are vulnerable



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to the exigencies of international politics. When enmity and threat were high, governments needed experts and funding was provided often through autonomous foundations. And the opposite? When President Obama, for example, announced a U.S. “pivot to the East,” foundation and government funding shifted away, too. That boom/bust pattern happened more than once. What is different now is the relative tightfistedness of universities. It is unlikely that university departments in our fields will swell again. Early in this century, universities, as every other sector, experienced a major recession. They pared down, merged, or eliminated centers and departments. They turned to temporary, non-tenure-track faculty and sometimes doubled or trebled class size. When support for travel was cut, many academics turned to Skype; in general, much collaborative research moved to the internet.

For larger, collaborative projects it is the private sector—including foundations and large donors—that is being called upon to fill the gap. The same is true for endangered newspapers, arts organizations and museums, as well as initiatives alleviating poverty and inequities. Formidable and worthy competition.

One other point about the economic situation and federal funding: funders (private and public) very often now call for research with immediate policy application—

not implications or ultimate findings, but a plan to put into place now. Requests for proposals bring in the humanities, social sciences, and the hard sciences, but almost always with the demand for immediate application. Many of our members have not studied or were trained in policy formation and evaluation. It will not be easy to make this shift, if desired. It will not be easy to alter curricula, if needed. On the job market a combination of fields or re-definition of a field is likely to be preferred.

Ahead we may expect increasing reason to learn to speak not just to each other. Much of what we do lies hidden under impenetrable jargon. Naturally, papers for scholarly journals (on- or offline) follow a set of professional rules and goals. At the same time, a fraction of our knowledge bridges the gulf to an outside world, where there is no end to well-funded politicized “research” from partisan sources. We are interconnected globally now, at a time when understanding different cultures’ histories, traditions, taboos, tensions, and changing power distribution becomes ever more complex.

Ellen Mickiewicz is the James R. Shepley Emeritus Professor of Public Policy and Political Science at Duke University. She was the AAASS Board President in 1988.

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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Call for Proposals for the 2019 ASEEES Summer Convention is now open. All proposals - panel, roundtable, and individual paper proposals - are due **November 15**.



ASEES ANNIVERSARY DECADE SPONSOR

1970s



From 2017, Cambridge University Press and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies have partnered up to refined the field's intellectual landscape through its chief publication, *Slavic Review*, an international interdisciplinary journal devoted to the study of Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Published since 1941, this journal has transformed the field for seventy-seven years making it the leading go to journal in Slavic Studies among scholars.

To celebrate this milestone acquisition with an objective to further support *Slavic Review* reaching an even wider audience, Cambridge University Press has selected original research from the 1970s, and offers free access to all archived content published between 1970 and 1979 until December 31, 2018.

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Celebrating ASEES: Reflections on the 1990s

Marianna Tax Choldin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I venture to say that everyone reading this issue of *NewsNet* knows the significance of the 1990s—for the world in general and for us as scholars in our field in particular—but some of our colleagues are perhaps too young to have lived through that amazing decade as adults. So for our younger readers, let me introduce the decade by writing that the 1990s were nothing short of amazing. (To our older readers, who experienced the '90s as I did, please choose your own favorite fevered adjective: stunning, shocking, mind-blowing, or something more up-to-date. You cannot possibly be too dramatic.)

I'll use myself as an example of an older reader. I was born in 1942, in the middle of World War II, experienced the beginning of the Cold War and the McCarthy era as a school girl, and came of age at the end of the 1950s and early 1960s as a college and graduate student at the University of Chicago, a member of the post-Sputnik generation. Many of my classmates and professors were émigrés from the Slavic and East European world. I studied Russian language, literature, and history from ancient times to the Soviet present. In the late 1960s I became a Slavic librarian, joined what was then AAASS in the mid-'70s, and in the '80s, having finished my PhD, I became a scholar of censorship in Russia and the Soviet Union, which I remain today.

Through my first 30 years in our field, although I was an optimist, I never doubted that the world of the Soviet Union and its neighbors was here to stay, although by the mid-'80s I certainly saw cracks in the edifice of that world. By that time I was traveling to Russia increasingly frequently, but I confess that I didn't see the end coming. I was overjoyed when the Berlin Wall came down, but that was Berlin, not Moscow. It wasn't until I found myself on a cruise ship sailing between Moscow and St. Petersburg, giving lectures to a group of tourists as we sailed into the August 1991 coup, that I was jolted into conceding that the Soviet Union might not last forever. I expect I'm not the only one of our colleagues who, if they are honest, might admit that they didn't see it coming.

Then came the 1990s. What we saw and experienced was both thrilling and scary. As scholars we thrilled to the open doors of archives, to the revelations of library spetskhrony, to the racy, bold satire on TV, and to an unfettered press. But we reacted with unease to unbridled corruption, to intolerance in parts of the Orthodox

Church, to an economy that wasn't growing, to nationalism on the rise, and to a widening gap between rich and poor. We were annoyed by Western "experts" who knew exactly how to fix the broken countries of Eastern Europe but knew nothing about those countries; and by earnest and enthusiastic but ignorant missionaries who filled the flights I took to Moscow, on their way to "Christianize the Russians" without knowing that they had been Christians for hundreds of years. My own experience was in Russia and the former Soviet Union; other colleagues reported similar signs, positive and negative, in other parts of the region.

Our AAASS conventions in the mid-'90s were vibrant, full of energy and a strong feeling of excitement. Colleagues from the region began to take their places on panels and roundtables; their detailed reports of life on the inside as it had been often left us breathless. Joint research projects between them and us were born. (For example, I partnered with a Russian colleague to organize a groundbreaking exhibition and conference on imperial and Soviet censorship.) We were invited to participate in conferences all over the region, often held in places where foreigners had been unwelcome until very recently.

But optimism was salted with disturbing questions. How would the changes affect our work? I'll never forget a scene at one of our conventions during that period. A colleague who specialized in the German Democratic Republic and I were waiting for the hotel gift shop to open so we could buy the *New York Times* (available then only in print, of course, in those long-ago times when dinosaurs roamed the earth). He peered anxiously at the headlines, then turned to me and said, mournfully, "There goes my country!"

By the mid-1990s not all of our initial questions had been answered. How would we define our academic areas on a newly-drawn map of the world? Would our access to archives and to specialists change for the better or become worse and perhaps dry up altogether? And at home, would our government and the foundations that had supported our scholars since Cold War times lose interest in our part of the world? Would our funding dry up? Would Americans, never very interested in foreign languages, eliminate our languages in high schools and colleges? These possibilities were sources of great anxiety in the

mid-1990s, and still are today, as they no doubt will be tomorrow.

It's interesting to look back on the subjects of our convention panels in 1995. Opening the program at random, I find "Imperial Russian Politics and the Muslim Question" and "Changing Political Elites and Movements in Post-Communist Societies," as well as "The Poetics of the Contemporary South Slavic Historical Novel" and "Contemporary Issues in Russian Education"—a nice mix of old and new—and that is as it should be. Some scholars were using newly accessible sources to continue their study of topics of enduring interest, while others were turning their attention to problems of the moment, new issues: both "The Politics of Porcelain" and "Mass Political Behavior in Post-Communist Countries." And as always, our librarian colleagues were reporting on the current state of access to everything we need—"Access and Archiving of Electronic Resources for Slavic & East European Studies"—to keep the scholars who depended on their help informed about resources. With the changes our field had broadened and deepened, a good thing for any field, and a wonderful thing to experience at a convention.

From dozens of conversations in the coffee shop, on the escalator, and in the meeting rooms I recall an energy, a sparkle that wasn't there in the 1970s and 1980s, my own first decades attending our conventions. It wasn't that we weren't into our work with enthusiasm back then; of course we were, but it was different. We talked then mainly among ourselves, because there were few others to talk to. (Younger readers, remember that in the old days visitors from the region were rare, and too often the visitors were accompanied by minders.)

From the late 1980s on, and especially after the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union collapsed, we talked to, and with, a vastly expanded circle of people, both our colleagues and ordinary people in the regions we studied. Travel in both directions increased dramatically. In my presidential address I wrote "With support from IREX, various Soros Foundation programs, and my own university.... I began to travel much more frequently to the region. Counting my trips, I'm amazed to find that since 1987 I have traveled seventeen times to Russia, three to Hungary, and once each to Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine." From the number of colleagues, members of this association, whom I saw in various hotels and airports (once, purely by chance, I even shared an elegant box with one at the Budapest opera house), I know I was not the only one moving around at a crazy pace. It was an exhilarating, exhausting, and ultimately life-changing time for many of us.

Those years of the mid-'90s are unforgettable. Some of us, I'm sure, looked at what was going on behind the scenes in our region and realized that trouble was brewing, that the streets were not paved with gold and the Moscow River was not flowing with milk and honey. But I, the eternal optimist, focused on the positive. Yes, I told myself, there are problems, lots of them. But the prospects are so bright! Surely we can believe that better times are coming! I'm still an optimist today, believe it or not, but I have to work at it. And I am so glad that the new AAASS—ASEEES—is with us now, still encouraging study, still hosting annual conventions, still bringing us together. Keep it up, please!

Marianna Tax Choldin is Professor Emerita, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was the AAASS Board President in 1995.

FORTHCOMING IN *SLAVIC REVIEW*, WINTER 2018

CRITICAL DISCUSSION FORUM: 1968

"Making a Long Story Longer: Eastern Europe and 1968 as a Global Moment, Fifty Years Later" by Judit Bodnár

"Let's Turn Hegel from His Head onto His Feet: Hopes, Myths, and Memories of the 1960s in Tamás Cseh's Musical Album 'A Letter to My Sister'" by Anna Szemere

Utopias and 'Normality': 1968 Revisited Fifty Years On" by Jacques Rupnik

"Postmodernity's Unexpected Arrival: 1968 as Breakdown in Geoculture" by Georgi M. Derluguian

"Occupy College Street: Student Radicalism in Kolkata in the Sixties" by Ranabir Samaddar

MANAGING REGIONAL DIVERSITY

Andrey Makarychev and Alexandra Yatsyk, Cluster Guest Editors

"Russian 'Federalism': Illiberal? Imperial? Exceptionalist?" by Andrey Makarychev and Alexandra Yatsyk

"Inside Russia's Imperial Relations: The Social Constitution of Putin-Kadyrov Patronage" by Julie Wilhelmsen

"Was Immanuel Kant a Loser? Pre- and Post-war Legacy in Contemporary Discourse on the Identity of Kaliningrad Oblast Inhabitants" by Miłosz J. Zieliński

"Pluralism without Democracy, Vertical without Power: From Gorky to Nizhny Novgorod . . . And Back?" by Andrey Makarychev

ARTICLES

"Affirmative Action in the Western Borderlands of the Late Russian Empire?" by Darius Staliūnas

"Russia's Post-Soviet Ideological Terrain: Zvyagintsev's Leviathan and Debates on Authority, Agency, and Authenticity" by Susanne Wengle, Christy Monet, and Evgenia Olimpieva



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Celebrating ASEES: Reflections on the 2000s

William Rosenberg, University of Michigan

The collapse of the Soviet imperium created unexpected challenges for AAASS, none of them easy to solve. Interest in the Soviet Union and Bloc was probably never greater than it was after Gorbachev initiated changes that virtually no expert in the region had foreseen. Self-confident historians like myself were accustomed to ending our courses by telling students that radical change in the USSR could only come from within, and that there was little possibility that any First Secretary of the party could successfully effect it, especially if it meant loosening the party's grip on power. As the system began to unravel, we felt first hand the excitement that interesting times always stimulate in scholars, even as we soon understood how fraught they could be to those living through them. As the objects of our study collapsed, the established subjects of our enquiry morphed as well. Political scientists quickly shifted from authoritarian/totalitarian regime practices to the processes of "emerging democracies." Socio-political historians like myself, struggling against unequivocal concentration on ideology and political power as the sole movers of Soviet history, were now widely thought to have gotten it wrong. Those few economists, anthropologists, and sociologists who taught us so much about the Soviet society as a system were essentially out of business as far as new university positions were concerned, even if their continued work amplified our historical understanding and remained essential to comprehending the kinds of changes that were and were not occurring in post-Soviet social, economic, and cultural life. Even prominent dissident writers momentarily lost their voices. The heroic work of Carl and Ellendea Proffer at Ardis Publishers in Ann Arbor was essentially done.

All of this greatly affected subscriptions to the *Slavic Review* and hence AAASS membership, for which the *Review* was the primary source. 1990 was the Association's peak year: 3889 members and a paid *Slavic Review* distribution of 4990. By 2001, the year I became President-elect, membership was less than 2997 and the *Review's* subscriptions had fallen almost 20 percent. This decline had a ripple effect in terms of the resources needed to support the Association's office in Cambridge. It suggested the possibility that the Association might not be able to sustain itself financially and otherwise in a climate of declining interest in our area of study without vigorous efforts on the part of its elected officers and the Cambridge office staff. One of the attractive inefficiencies

of scholarly associations like ours is the annual rotation of responsibility from one president to the next, cushioned slightly by longer term memberships on its Executive Committee and Board, but still subject to the need for some consistency in outlook from one year to the next. This can, of course, be provided by AAASS's Executive Director and staff, but in 2001 the difficulties faced were beyond their capacity to remedy. If the Association was to endure—and even some staff members doubted that it could—it needed new resources, new members, new energy, and even a new vision of what it was doing and why: a *perestroika* of its own.

I was very fortunate to have been preceded as president by David Ransel and succeeded by Gale Stokes and Katherine Verdery, and the four of us together to have Cynthia Buckley and Walt Conner to work with on the Executive Committee as well as Madeline Levine, Louise McReynolds, Andrew Michta, Catharine Nepomnyashchy, and Mark von Hagen as the Association's own members-at-large on the Board of Directors. Karen Dawisha, John Hardt, Richard Stites, Barbara Anderson, Maria Carlson, George Gutsche, James Flynn, and Victor Winston also served very constructively on the Board at this difficult period, representing the Slavic area studies in major scholarly associations, as did Diane Koenker, editor of the *Slavic Review*. (One of the first administrative steps we took was to add Diane and her successor editors to the Executive Committee in order to assure better financial and other coordination with AAASS's staff.) The risk of including names is always that some might be unintentionally neglected. Suffice it to say that all of these good souls and more were mobilized in 2002 and 2003 to begin addressing the problems at hand.

Some were relatively easy. Since the issue of convention attendance was directly related to its location, the Board took on itself the responsibility for selecting cities that would be particularly attractive to members. It also took steps to assure that the dates selected did not conflict with those of related associations like that of the anthropologists. Diane Koenker addressed the question of extending the attractiveness of publishing in the *Slavic Review* by applying for its inclusion in the *Social Science Index* and assuring a quick turnaround for submissions, hoping in this way and others to broaden its reach. An effort began to expand the types of prizes the Association awarded, especially to graduate students. Proposals were

considered to add a representative from the American Anthropological Association to the Board, to dissolve moribund committees and invigorate existing ones by adding a man or two to the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, and someone who was not a language specialist to the Combined Language Committee. Efforts were made to assure greater continuity in the work of successive convention Program Committees in order, as Bob Johnson expressed it, to end the off-putting annual reinvention of the wheel. All of this reflected a general sense that the Association had to become more attractive both to existing and new members, more inclusive in the range of convention panels and presentations, and a good deal more efficient and transparent in its administration.

Some issues, however, like the Association's financial condition were much more difficult to address. In August 2003, the Executive Committee met in a special meeting with the Association's staff in Cambridge. It became clear that like most other research universities Harvard was disinterested in housing AAASS and unwilling to reduce rent or help with other steadily increasing costs. Technology was antiquated and expensive to upgrade, troubling staff members whose tasks required simplification. Morale was low, job uncertainty for some was distressingly high. The Association's endowment of a little over \$1.1 million was now insufficient to fund expenses at the current (and "best practices") rate of withdrawal.

After extended discussion, the Executive Committee therefore felt compelled to raise Association dues substantially despite the obvious concern that for some this would make membership less attractive. (Although this decision improved revenue, it was not the most popular one ever made). Marshall Goldman, Jim Millar and Bob Donia were asked to look into how our endowment was invested and managed. The Committee also decided to conduct a formal review of the national office administration as a whole, including the possible savings and efficiencies of new technology. Of necessity, it finally began the taxing process of exploring a move to a new and less costly university home.

The larger and more general question behind these efforts, however, was how to make the Association more inclusive in its membership and convention—how to build on the less tangible but obviously rewarding opportunity the annual convention presented to participants simply by providing an annual venue for serious and less serious conversations alike. I suppose the analytical concept here is "social capital." The strength and purpose of the Association, in other words, had to be thought of in more than the terms of scholarly expertise that underlay its creation in

the 1940s. Perhaps the biggest step in this direction was a controversial move to open up the convention program to single paper proposals, something that required both better technology and a great deal of additional work for the program committee. An understandable issue here was whether this would reduce the rigor with which panel proposals were reviewed, although in practice these were rarely rejected. In its favor were the new opportunities this might allow for participation from scholars in the region, where panel proposals were more difficult to organize and evaluate, as well as problematic in terms of travel costs; the advantages this might provide in terms of encouraging interdisciplinarity; and the possibility it would foster participation from younger North American scholars and others who were not well "networked." Linked here was the notion that if AAASS recovered financially, it might eventually be able to initiate a program of travel grants, something 15 or so years later we now take for granted. Although it took a few years (and a great deal of additional work) for the Association and its annual convention to grow in these ways, these early discussions were prelude to those that led to the end of AAASS and its reincarnation as ASEES, whose very new name reflected the inclusiveness that proved to be a key part of its recovery.

But equally or even more so, of course, has been the new vigor, commitment, and imagination of the no-longer-American Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies's staff as it moved to the University of Pittsburgh under the creative and determined leadership of Lynda Park. None of us was bold enough in the bad old days to think that ASEES would be holding bi-annual meetings in the region (Astana, Lviv, and next June in Zagreb); be willing and able to nurture a new regional association of scholars in Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia (MAG); provide stipends for some younger regional scholars to present their work at our annual meeting; award students for outstanding scholarly work and support their dissertation study; and create a lively and welcoming venue each year where increasing numbers of scholars across our related fields so greatly appreciate – and I dare say enjoy – the formal and informal opportunities to talk with each other. Although the Association's purpose has long since broadened from scholarly understanding of the Soviet sphere, the founding rationale of AAASS, I have no doubt that the creativity of our "cadres" has proven the key to successes seemingly so unlikely not too many years ago, and will continue to be for those still ahead.

William Rosenberg is Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at the University of Michigan. He was the AAASS Board President in 2002.



Celebrating ASEEES: Reflections on the 2010s

Bruce Grant, New York University

Less than ten years might be a slim margin for looking back—I was on the board of ASEEES from 2010 through 2012, and served as President in 2011—but perhaps proximity also gives a chance to take stock of where we are today, with a view to changes that took shape only a few years behind us.

Becoming President of ASEEES in the 2010s felt a bit akin to politicians who take credit for a thriving economy the moment they arrive in office. So much spadework went into the remaking of ASEEES in the years before me that it was not hard to enjoy the luxury of a good infrastructure, and take off from there.

Back in 2005, Katherine Verdery led the association as its first anthropologist, and began the complicated job of opening up our meeting schedules so that we no longer overlapped with colleagues from ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), anthropology, religion, science studies, and more. More importantly, she teamed with Ron Suny and later Bill Taubman to undertake the association's renaming. "AAASS" may have rolled off the tongue easily for all of us who were used to it, but it also was not clear after so many decades that we were the same community we used to be. Did we still want to follow a United Nations-kind of model where every well-off country had their own association (the Americans, the French, the Germans, the Finns)? It was not just that the ASN (the Association for the Study of Nationalities) or CESS (the Central Eurasian Studies Society) were rapidly growing in size, building up robust, sometimes competing memberships, or putting on excellent conferences on shoestring budgets. It was that the association's conversations were changing because we were changing. By then, almost twenty years of life after socialism across Eastern Europe and the former Soviet states meant that our own member rolls, most simply, had shifted. Did we want to be the association for Americans or the association that is based in America and which welcomes all comers, each year after the next?

Beth Holmgren, Bill Taubman, and Mark von Hagen did the heavy lifting of reorganizing us all after a still-remembered vote to promulgate "ASEEES." It was *krugovaia poruka* at its best, or maybe simply just generalized reciprocity, with a lot of people pitching in for an organization with which we all grew up. But they also had another organizational challenge—marking the end of

our once-affordable host arrangement with Harvard and our office's eventual move to Pittsburgh. Looking back, it is not hard to miss the leafy comfort of Cambridge, where our programs were so well directed in the years prior by Carol Saivetz and Dmitry Gorenburg. But it was also the end of an era for what a Harvard office meant to our field: the extraordinary surety of government funding over the decades of the Cold War, an age of giants who shaped debate and built canons, and perhaps even the centrality of the Ivy League to area studies knowledges, with so many new knowledge hubs active around the world.

At Pittsburgh, where we were generously welcomed by faculty and the administration alike, we set up shop with an extraordinary new director, Lynda Park. I suspect that I do not need to convince anyone of what Lynda has managed for the association over just seven years. Getting the boxes unpacked and setting up new staff was one thing. But picking up new steam and taking time to reassess all we were doing proved an advantage.

Slogans were not the order of the day, but looking back, it sometimes seems that way. My notes from seven years ago everywhere say, "digitize," "internationalize," and "regroup."

Do you remember filling out your membership and conference paperwork on cut outs from *NewsNet*? I do. We did away with them partly to cut costs, but mainly because we wanted to make joining the ranks and coming to conferences easier for our colleagues everywhere, not just those who could rely on finding what they needed in their office mailbox.

More substantively, this meant joining the march of e-journals and getting *Slavic Review* up online (in a first effort, with JSTOR) so that more people could read what our colleagues were writing. It meant reforming much of our website and creating searchable member directories. It also meant that we took the time to start archiving the work of our field in ways we had not been able to do previously—more widely sharing the great program histories written up by Ralph Fisher, and accounting for every board member who had served since 1948—so that any new members would have a better sense of the path behind us.

"To internationalize," in the simplest of terms, meant a reckoning of who and where our members were. More

and more, the very people about whom many of us started our careers reading and writing, from a distance, were now among our students, working as colleagues in our departments, and sitting in the same plenary sessions with us at conferences. Everywhere, IMHO, our scholarship became sharper for it. Air travel had become vastly cheaper since the 1980s, so our members were moving around in ways previously unaffordable; even many graduate students were increasingly spending time abroad before launching their main dissertation work. Nor was correspondence with colleagues in Australia, Japan, or Switzerland as out of reach as it once was when our analogue association, ICCEES (the International Council for Central and East European Studies) began in 1975.

How were we to respond? At a minimum, this meant reaching out to old and new members in new places, such as in piloting new summer conferences, together with CESS in Astana in 2014, with MAG (the *Mezhdunarodnaia assotsiatsiia gumanitarniev*, or International Association for the Humanities) in Kyiv in 2016, or with Zagreb, the first to be hosted abroad solely by us, this June of 2019. It also meant creating new funding programs so that we could extend stipends to colleagues from outside the US to attend our annual conferences, or to conduct dissertation research, programs that we have now had up and running for several years. It meant new mentoring programs to work with graduate students from across the US and beyond to learn the ropes of academic systems not always familiar to them (and to work to change them).

“Regrouping” best recalls the language of polite euphemism from my native Canada, where here it signals, “government funding went away and now we’re broke.” The Title VIII Program, founded in 1983, had been offering abundant, centralized support for Soviet and East European area specialists along every step of the career ladder. Things only seemed to improve in the heady days of perestroika when our region of study enjoyed buoyant world attention. I remember colleagues in Latin American Studies grumpily expressing surprise that the State Department should single out our world area for special support. What I did not appreciate at the time is that those same colleagues in Latin American Studies were also decades ahead of us in cultivating stable channels of support from private foundations. Title VIII’s retirement shifted our focus to the Department of Education where we now compete in Fulbright-Hays competitions along with everyone else. The recession of 2008 did not improve things, when the universities where so many of us were trained began competing with the association for new funding dollars. Despite the dunning overhead that most

universities charge, many donors tend to warm to the embrace of the well-heeled campus, so our competition has been fierce. This makes me all the more grateful for the members who have been supporting new programs, and for the uncommon colleagues who know a thing or two about fundraising. Regrouping also means that we now spend a lot more time than we used to in the conversation with the ACLS (the American Council for Learned Societies), the AAUP (the American Association of University Professors), and with a new Advocacy Committee that angles to protect the right to free and fair research and writing conditions for our scholarly orbit.

I joined AAASS during my first year in graduate school and perhaps like many readers, I feel that I have been able to grow up with it. I like to venture that we have a future because of the work that I can see being done by the office staff, subsequent presidents, board members, friends, and colleagues for the general cause. The cause is not a minor one, either. As the Modern Language Association annually reminds us, North America has seen a steady decline in foreign language learning across the past twenty-five years, a fact that often haunts me more than the better-known closings of programs, departments, and funding lines that mean everything to many. A few years back I remember when the excellent and now much missed Cathy Nepomnyashchy reminded New York colleagues that Columbia once traditionally refused to grant credit to undergraduates spending time abroad in Prague unless they first had four semesters of Czech. You could hear the air getting sucked out of the room as everyone strained to think of what would happen to study abroad numbers if we returned to those bright standards. My own university has a gladly and heavily trafficked global site in Prague but few of those students come back from the Czech Republic with more than survival-level phrases. I am glad that more students than before are launching into former socialist worlds, but the difference in training then and now is just one of many factors that reminds me every day how much we all need ASEEES and what it does, maybe more than ever.

Bruce Grant was ASEEES Board President in 2011. He is a Professor of Anthropology at New York University and was recently named the Chair of the Department of Anthropology.

THE ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 ASEES PRIZES

Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Award

Diane P. Koenker, Director and Professor of Russian and Soviet History, University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies and Professor Emerita of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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

Natalia Roudakova, *Losing Pravda: Ethics and The Press in Post-Truth Russia* (Cambridge University Press)

Honorable Mention: Ana Antic, *Therapeutic Fascism: Experiencing the Violence of the Nazi New Order* (Oxford University Press)

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

Alexis Peri, *The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad* (Harvard University Press)

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

Lynne Viola, *Stalinist Perpetrators on Trial: Scenes from the Great Terror in Soviet Ukraine* (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: Alexis Peri, *The War Within: Diaries from the Siege of Leningrad* (Harvard University Press)

Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies for outstanding monograph on Russia, Eurasia, or Eastern Europe in anthropology, political science, sociology, or geography

Elidor Mëhilli, *From Stalin to Mao: Albania and the Socialist World* (Cornell University Press)

Natalia Roudakova, *Losing Pravda: Ethics and The Press in Post-Truth Russia* (Cambridge University Press)

Marshall Shulman Book Prize for an outstanding monograph dealing with the international relations, foreign policy, or foreign-policy decision-making of any of the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe

Elidor Mëhilli, *From Stalin to Mao: Albania and the Socialist World* (Cornell University Press)

Honorable Mention: Borislav Chernev, *Twilight of Empire: The Brest-Litovsk Conference and the Remaking of East-Central Europe, 1917-1918* (University of Toronto Press)

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

Sarah Wilson Sokhey, *The Political Economy of Pension Policy Reversal in Post-Communist Countries* (Cambridge University Press)

Rachel A. Epstein, *Banking on Markets: The Transformation of Bank-State Ties in Europe and Beyond* (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: Regine A. Spector, *Order at the Bazaar: Power and Trade in Central Asia* (Cornell University Press)

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history

John C. Swanson, *Tangible Belonging: Negotiating Germanness in Twentieth-Century Hungary* (University of Pittsburgh Press)

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

Lisa Jakelski, *Making New Music in Cold War Poland: The Warsaw Autumn Festival, 1956-1968* (University of California Press)

Honorable Mention: Robert Blobaum, *A Minor Apocalypse: Warsaw during the First World War* (Cornell University Press)

Lincoln Book Prize for an author's first published monograph or scholarly synthesis that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia's past, published in the previous two years.

Erika Monahan, *The Merchants of Siberia: Trade in Early Modern Eurasia* (Cornell University Press)

Honorable Mention: Jeffrey S. Hardy, *The Gulag after Stalin: Redefining Punishment in Khrushchev's Soviet Union, 1953-1964* (Cornell University Press)

Honorable Mention: Andy Willimott, *Living the Revolution: Urban Communes & Soviet Socialism, 1917-1932* (Oxford University Press)

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

Szabolcs László, "Performing for the Capitalists: Cold War Cultural Diplomacy Experienced by Hungarian and Romanian Writers at the Iowa International Writing Program" PhD Candidate, Department of History at Indiana University

Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize for an outstanding English-language doctoral dissertation in Soviet or Post-Soviet politics and history in the tradition practiced by Tucker and Cohen, defended at an American or Canadian university

Rhiannon Dowling, "Brezhnev's War on Crime: The Criminal in Soviet Society, 1963-1984," UC Berkeley

CLIR Distinguished Service Award

June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer of Slavic and East European Studies and General Linguistics, University of Chicago

Prize winners will be recognized during the ASEEES Annual Convention award ceremony on Friday, December 7, 6:30pm, in Boston, MA. The event is open to the public. Full citations will be printed in the convention program.

ASEEES Announces the Results of the 2018 Board of Directors Elections

President-Elect/Vice President

Jan Kubik, Rutgers University / University College London (UK)

Members at Large

Eileen Kane, Connecticut College

Maria Popova, McGill U (Canada)

These new board members will begin their work on January 1, 2019 and will serve until December 31, 2021.



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WE THANK THE FOLLOWING

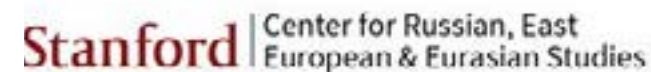
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CELEBRATING ASEEES' ANNIVERSARIES

50th ASEEES Annual Convention 6-9 December 2018 Boston Marriott Copley Place Theme: Performance

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- ASEEES Annual Meeting of the Members, 6:00pm
- Opening Reception & Exhibit Hall Tour, 6:30pm
- Film Screenings: "Resilience: How to Live 100 Russian Years" and "Grisha Bruskin: A 30-Year Saga," Documentary films by Nina Zaretskaya, 8pm



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

- ASEEES Awards Ceremony & President's Address: "Presidential Performances" (open to the public), 6:30pm
- Film Screening: "The Eleventh Year," 8pm
- Film Screening: "The Son of Mongolia," 8pm



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- Presidential Plenary: How Do We Rate Our Performance? ASEEES Presidents Consider the State of the Field, 12pm
- Film Screening: "Banjo Romantika," and "Occupation 1968," 8pm
- Anniversary Dance Party (all registered attendees are invited), 8:30pm





GO BEYOND ORDINARY WITH AMERICAN COUNCILS

For over 40 years, American Councils has been a leader in innovative overseas study and research programs in the Balkans, Eurasia, Russia, and Central Asia. From language and cultural immersion to overseas research, American Councils offers programs to advance your education and career.

LANGUAGE & CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAMS

Advanced Russian Language & Area Studies Program (RLASP) blends intensive Russian language learning with regional studies courses such as Russian culture, history, and politics. Available in Moscow, Vladimir, and St. Petersburg, as well as Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Business Russian Language & Internship (BRLI) program combines high-level Russian language instruction and a substantive internship in fields such as marketing, journalism, and STEM.

Heritage Speakers Program addresses the unique challenges faced by students who grew up speaking Russian in the home. Program staff and faculty work with participants to design an individualized program. Available in Russia and Kazakhstan.

Balkan Language initiative (BLI) offers overseas immersion in one of 5 Balkan languages. Experienced host families and knowledgeable in-country staff allow students to thrive. Offered in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, or Serbia.

Eurasian Regional Language Program (ERLP) provides high-quality language instruction, specially-designed cultural programs, and expert

logistical support. Participants study one of 18 less commonly-taught languages in 9 Eurasian countries, including Armenian, Azeri, Georgian, Persian (Dari, Farsi, Tajiki), Turkish, Ukrainian, Uzbek, and many more.

SUMMER REGIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS

Politics & Public Diplomacy in Contemporary Russia program explores regional developments and conflict, economic and political reforms under Vladimir Putin, the role of mass media in society, and cultural phenomena shaping today's Russia. Russian language instruction is offered at all levels.

Peace & Security in the South Caucasus program allows students to discover the diverse cultures and complex politics that shape the region, while spending five weeks in Tbilisi, Georgia. Language instruction in Russian, Georgian, Chechen, and Azerbaijani is offered at all levels.

SUMMER OVERSEAS INTERSHIPS

Overseas Professional & Intercultural Training (OPIT) program gives students the substantive overseas professional experience and intercultural skills demanded by today's global market. Available in 19 countries across Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Applications for Summer 2019 programs are due by February 15. Full details, including eligibility requirements, deadlines, financial aid, and applications, are available at:

www.acStudyAbroad.org



Spotlight: Journal of Russian American Studies

More than a decade ago, a small group of scholars were presenting their research at conferences in the United States, Russia, and elsewhere on the topic of Russian-American relations. In 2007, I attended a conference commemorating the bicentennial of Russian-American relations in Moscow. For me, I had just shifted away from my dissertation area to Russian-American relations. One of the first things I noticed about this field was that it did not really have a home. Over the next few years, I began to attend conferences in the United States and Russia on this topic. The field still there lacked a certain cohesion or organization. Many of us began to discuss the idea of creating an association, hosting conferences, and/or publishing a journal. Financial and logistical constraints always seem to end those discussions.

In 2014, Dr. Norman E. Saul of the University of Kansas and I decided to co-edit an anthology of essays on the broad history (18th to 21st centuries) of Russian-American relations which resulted in a volume published by Routledge in 2016. During that course of that project, Norman and I decided that we needed to create a series of books that were republications of American eyewitness accounts of the Russian Revolution since the centennial was fast approaching. This series, *Americans in Revolutionary Russia* (Slavica Publishers), is underway with seven books published and another ten in the works. In the midst of this project, we decided that a journal would be a great ongoing project for this field.

Norman and I began to investigate the possibilities. First, we needed to assemble an outstanding editorial board. Through these previous projects, we had worked with many of the top scholars in this field. In the end, we added six scholars to make up our editorial board from both the United States and Russia to insure the transnational nature of the journal. The editorial board is: Lee A. Farrow, David Foglesong, Lyubov Ginzburg, Ivan Kurilla, Matt Miller, and Victoria I. Zhuravleva. In addition, we decided to be a dual language journal. We do not translate material, but rather we publish in both Russian and English depending on the author. We found a home for our journal at the University of Kansas Libraries. Publishing a print journal these days did not seem financially or logistically feasible. So, the e-journal

format with the outstanding support from the University of Kansas Libraries has been an excellent choice.

By late 2016, we were ready to launch the journal. We decided it would have three main areas: original articles on the broad study of Russian American studies, open to all topics and all eras in this field; book reviews of the most recent scholarship and popular studies of Russian-American relations; and field notes where we and any other entities could advertise upcoming events, conferences, publications, etc. In May 2017, we published our first issue. We were thrilled to see this idea come to life. We have published two more issues since and are now preparing the fourth issue for November 2018. In summer of 2018, we designed a logo for the journal to have a greater presence. As we prepare this fourth issue, we feel we have created a place for this field to have a home without becoming bogged down in bureaucracy and logistical issues.



We are always accepting articles for possible publication (in Russian or English) and volunteers to review articles. We are seeking books to review and book reviewers. We are seeking information to fill our Field

Notes section. Our contact information is: <https://journals.ku.edu/jras>, Journal of Russian American Studies (JRAS), P.O. Box 164, Sycamore, IL 60178, jras1807@gmail.com.

Ben Whisenhunt is Professor of History at College of DuPage.

ASEEES WEBINARS

We continue to host professional development webinars offered by the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East-Central Europe.

These webinars are geared towards those who are curious about European higher education and research. Discover opportunities to enhance your career mobility and research. This series is sponsored by ASEEES, EUSA, the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies and the ESC.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

December 3, 12:00 (EST): How to Work in Archives in Eastern Europe and in Germany. To register, [click here](#).

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Yakov Leshchinsky. *The Jewish Worker in Russia*, trans. Robert Brym, xvi + 139 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-482-6), \$29.95.

In this landmark study of 1906, social scientist Yakov Leshchinsky, influenced in equal measure by Marx and the Zionist thinker Ahad Ha-am, sought an explanation and solution for the crisis of the Russian Empire's impoverished Jews. Part political pamphlet, part theoretical excursus, part empirical analysis, *The Jewish Worker in Russia* established a foundation for the ideology of the Zionist Socialist Workers' Party, presaged modern sociological concepts explaining the limited proletarianization and industrialization of the Jewish working class, and gave substance to the theory by analyzing a large body of unique statistical data, mainly from official sources and a quasi-census of Russian Jews

funded by the Jewish Colonization Association.

Donald Thompson. *Donald Thompson in Russia*, ed. David H. Mould, xxviii + 219 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-483-3), \$29.95.

Pioneer war photographer Donald Thompson arrived in Petrograd on the eve of the February Revolution. Over the next six months, as Russia plunged into chaos, Thompson photographed demonstrations and street-fighting, was caught in crossfire between protesters and troops, met and photographed political and military leaders, and witnessed the power struggle between the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet. *Donald Thompson in Russia*, first published in 1918, is a compilation of Thompson's letters to his wife Dorothy in Topeka, and is illustrated with 65 photos.



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Review Essay
VICTORIA FREDE
Revolutionaries in Deed

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

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.

Jan Novák. *So Far So Good: The Mašín Family and the Greatest Story of the Cold War*, xvi + 453 p., 2017 (ISBN 978-089357-458-9), \$19.95.

Voted Book of the Year by the Czech Republic's Magnesia Litera when published in Czech translation in 2004, *So Far So Good: The Mašín Family and the Greatest Story of the Cold War* by Jan Novák is now published by Slavica in the original English. Although it reads like a thriller, this "novel-document" is based on the true story of three young Czech men, Radek and Ctirad Mašín and Milan Paumer, whose daring exploits of anti-Communist resistance and flight through the Iron Curtain to West Berlin set off the *Tschechenkrieg*, a massive manhunt by 27,000 East German police and Red Army regulars.



Three String Books

Bohumil Hrabal. *Murder Ballads and Other Legends*, trans. Timothy West, viii +

109 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-089357-480-2), \$19.95.

"Some texts, after I've written them, have woken me up in the night so that I break out in a sweat and jump out of bed." With this confession legendary author Bohumil Hrabal concludes this genre-bending collection of stories published at the height of his fame in the 1960s. At the book's heart is "The Legend of Cain," an early version of the novella (and Oscar-winning film) *Closely Watched Trains*. Beautifully illustrated with woodcuts from early modern broadside ballads, *Murder Ballads and Other Legends* appears here in English for the first time, 50 years after it first appeared in Czech.

Bohumil Hrabal (1914-97) is regarded as one of the leading Czech prose stylists of the 20th century. His work has been translated into more than two dozen languages, and in 1995 *Publisher's Weekly* named him "the most revered living Czech writer."



2017-2018 Contributors to ASEEEES

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This acknowledgement reflects donations made between July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

2019-2020 COHEN-TUCKER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ASEEES is delighted to continue the Stephen F. Cohen-Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Program for Russian Historical Studies. The program supports the next generation of U.S. scholars by offering Dissertation Research Fellowships and, starting in 2019, a new Dissertation Completion Fellowship. We thank the KAT Charitable Foundation for its generous support of the program.

For the 2019 Competition, the Program will offer:

- Five (5) Dissertation Research Fellowships with a stipend of \$25,000 each to conduct dissertation research in Russia
- New Dissertation Completion Fellowship with a stipend of \$25,000 (or possibly two Fellowships at \$12,500) to support expeditious completion of dissertation

The program is now open to students who are U.S. citizens in Canadian PhD programs as well as US PhD programs.

Applications are due January 15, 2019.
www.aseees.org/programs/ctdrf



2019 ASEES Convention Theme

ASEEES 51st Annual Convention

Saturday, November 23 – Tuesday, November 26, 2019

San Francisco, CA, San Francisco Marriott Marquis

Convention Theme: Belief

2019 ASEES President, Mark Steinberg, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Belief may be a universal human impulse, inseparable from how we perceive and interpret the world and especially how we judge what is true and right, a preoccupying concern across human cultures. Belief is manifest in a wide range of expressions and practices, from social movements to spiritual life to wars. In the face of the pervasiveness of belief, the humanities and social sciences across the disciplines have continually grappled with its definition and role in human affairs.

Belief is not unproblematic or unambiguous. Beliefs have led to violence, discrimination, hatred, and genocide (this list could sadly but easily be expanded), but also to self-sacrifice, heroic feats, solidarity, and revolution (also an expandable list). Belief has been liberating and oppressive, creative and destructive. Belief constructs normativities and inspires transgression and innovation. Class, gender, and race are infused with beliefs about what is natural, true, and right. Belief has elevated individual men and women and degraded them. As a type of knowledge, belief often looks beyond the world as it is, toward a transcendent time and place. Reaching beyond hope and desire, belief has inspired efforts to make the world as it ought to be—sometimes at great cost in lives. And belief is not limited to human relations but reaches into our fraught relationships with the natural environment and with the unearthly. Inevitably, belief is shaped by the world of the present, often as a critical response to the limited and flawed reality of the here and now, past and present. Of course, there are analytical hazards in emphasizing the importance of belief, including a reduction of motivations to abstract ideas and feelings separated from social experience and material life, and essentializing belief as immutable, rather than as part of the world of change, instability, and unpredictability.

These introductory comments are meant to suggest possibilities for exploring belief not to narrow the field. The boundaries of belief with other forms of knowing are open and its forms have always been the subject of difference and dissent. We look forward to a wide range of topics, approaches, and arguments in panels and papers. We especially welcome contributions that theorize the category itself as well as explore its forms and places in the Slavic, East European and Eurasian world. Conceptually, we might ask what is “belief” as a category of experience and practice? What is its relation to other forms of cognition, knowledge, and judgment, including faith, science, and emotion? What is its relation to social and material life, to physical and bodily practices? How has belief been entwined with other key categories of analysis, such as culture, gender, class, religion, and nation, including previous ASEES themes such as performance, transgression, revolution, fact, boundaries, and memory? And, of course, how has belief, for better and worse, been part of the histories, lives, and possible futures of this region?

Proposals from all disciplines and historical periods are welcome, and encouraged.

Deadline for ALL Submissions (panels, papers, roundtables, meeting rooms) due February 15, 2019.



Publications

Brian D. Taylor's *The Code of Putinism* was published by Oxford University Press in July 2018. This book shows how the mentality of Putin and his team has shaped Russian politics over the past two decades. It explains not only the thoughts and ideas that motivate Putin's decisions, but also the emotions and habits that influence how Putin and his close allies view the world. The code of Putinism has shaped the nature of Russia's political system, its economy, and its foreign policy. Taylor draws on interviews, the speeches of Putin and other top officials, and the Russian media to analyze the mentality of Putin's team. Taylor explores key features of Russian politics today, including authoritarianism, Putin's reliance on a small group of loyal friends and associates, state domination of the economy, and an assertive foreign policy. Key ideas of the code include conservatism, anti-Americanism, and the importance of a state that is powerful both at home and abroad. While some observers portray Putin as either a cold-blooded pragmatist or a strident Russian nationalist, Taylor provides a more nuanced interpretation of Putin's motives and actions. *The Code of Putinism* also shows how Putin's choices, guided by this mentality, have led to a Russia that is misruled at home and punching above its weight abroad.

From Media Systems to Media Cultures: Understanding Socialist Television, by Sabina Mihelj and Simon Huxtable, was published by Cambridge University Press in August 2018.

In *From Media Systems to Media Cultures*, the authors delve into the world of television under communism, using it to test a new framework for comparative media analysis. To understand the societal consequences of mass communication, the authors argue for the need to move beyond the analysis of media systems, and instead focus on the role of the media in shaping cultural ideals and narratives, everyday practices and routines. Drawing on original data derived from archival sources, program and schedule analysis, and oral history interviews, the authors show how communist authorities managed to harness the power of television to shape new habits and rituals, yet failed to inspire a deeper belief in communist ideals. This book and their analysis contains important implications for the understanding of mass communication in non-democratic settings, and provides tools for the analysis of media cultures globally.

Shimon Redlich published *A New Life in Israel: 1950-1954* (Academic Studies Press, January 2018). This is the last book in the trilogy about Redlich's childhood and adolescence. In *Together and Apart in Brzezany* he discussed his childhood in prewar and wartime Brzezany. *Life in Transit* told the story of his adolescence in the city of Lodz in postwar Poland. *A New Life in Israel* focuses on his first years in the Jewish state. The book bears witness to the

adjustment of one young immigrant—one among thousands—to the realities of a new life in Israel.

In *Imagining Russian Regions: Subnational Identity and Civil Society in Nineteenth-Century Russia* (Brill, October 2017), Susan Smith-Peter shows how ideas of civil society encouraged the growth of subnational identity in Russia before 1861. This book explains how Adam Smith and G.W.F. Hegel's ideas of civil society influenced Russians and the resulting plans to stimulate the growth of civil society also formed subnational identities.

Victoria Clement's recent book, *Learning to Become Turkmen: Literacy, Language, and Power, 1914-2014*, was published in April 2018 by University of Pittsburgh Press. It examines the ways in which the iconography of everyday life—in dramatically different alphabets, multiple languages, and shifting education policies—reflects the evolution of Turkmen society in Central Asia over the past century. As Clement shows, the formal structures of the Russian imperial state did not affect Turkmen cultural formations nearly as much as Russian language and Cyrillic script. Their departure was also as transformative to Turkmen politics and society as their arrival.

Eliza Orzeszkowa's book *Marta*, translated by Anna Gąsienica Byrcyn and Stephanie Kraft, was published by Ohio University Press in 2018.

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Orzeszkowa was a Polish novelist who, alongside Tolstoy and Sienkiewicz, was a finalist for the 1905 Nobel Prize in Literature. Of her many works of social realism, *Marta* (1873) is among the best known, but until now it has not been available in English. *Marta* burns with Orzeszkowa's feminist conviction that sexism was not just an annoyance but a threat to the survival of women and children. It anticipated the need for social safety nets whose existence we take for granted today, and could easily read as an indictment of current efforts to dismantle those very programs. *Marta* resonates beyond its Polish setting to find its place in women's studies, labor history and literature of social change.

William Hill's *No Place For Russia: European Security Institutions Since 1989*, was published by Columbia University Press in August 2018. The optimistic vision of a "Europe whole and free" after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 has given way to disillusionment, bitterness, and renewed hostility between Russia and the West. In *No Place for Russia*, Hill traces the development of the post-Cold War European security order to explain today's tensions, showing how attempts to integrate Russia into a unified Euro-Atlantic security order were gradually overshadowed by the domination of NATO and the EU—at Russia's expense.

On the Shoulders of Grandmothers: Gender, Migration, and Post-Soviet Nation-State Building, (Routledge, 2017), by Cinzia D. Solari, is a global ethnography of Ukrainian transnational migration. Gendered migrant subjectivities are a key site for understanding the production of neoliberal capitalism and Ukrainian nation-state building, a fraught process that places Ukraine precariously between Europe and Russia with dramatic

implications for the political economy of the region. However, processes of gender and migration that undergird transnational nation-state building require further attention. Solari compares two patterns of Ukrainian migration: the "forced" exile of middle-aged women, mostly grandmothers, to Italy and the "voluntary" exodus of families, led by the same cohort of middle-aged women, to the United States. In both receiving sites these migrants are caregivers to the elderly.

Brill published Robert Niebuhr's *The Search for a Cold War Legitimacy: Foreign Policy and Tito's Yugoslavia* in January 2018. Titoist Yugoslavia is an interesting setting to examine the integrity of the modern nation-state, especially the viability of distinctly multi-ethnic nation-building projects. Scholarly literature on the civil wars that destroyed Yugoslavia during the 1990s emphasizes divisive nationalism and dysfunctional politics to explain why the state disintegrated. But the larger question remains unanswered—just how did Tito's state function so successfully for the preceding forty-six years. In an attempt to understand better what united the stable, multi-ethnic, and globally important Yugoslavia that existed before 1991, Niebuhr argues that special attention should be paid to the dynamic and robust foreign policy that helped shape the Cold War.

Taxes and Trust: From Coercion to Compliance in Poland, Russia and Ukraine (Cambridge University Press, 2018), by Marc Berenson, is the first book on taxes to focus on trust and the first work of social science to concentrate on how tax policy actually gets implemented on the ground in Poland, Russia and Ukraine. It highlights the nuances of the transitional Ukraine case and explains precisely how and why that 'borderland' country differs



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from the more ideal-types of coercive Russia and compliance-oriented Poland. Through nine taxpayer surveys, a bureaucratic survey and more than fifteen years of qualitative research, the book emphasizes the building and accumulation of trust to transition from a coercive tax state to a compliant one. The context of the book will appeal to students and scholars of taxation worldwide and to those who study Russia and Eastern Europe. This title is also available as Open Access.

William Benton Whisenhunt edited and annotated John Reed's *Ten Days That Shook the World* (Slavica Publishers, 2018).

Of all of the books by American witnesses of the Russian Revolution, Reed's *Ten Days That Shook the World* was and remains well-known. His account focuses on the ten key days of the revolution itself, bringing to life the sights, sounds, and key people who were so instrumental in this critical event. Reed, officially a journalist, shed his objectivity and supported the Bolshevik cause, and this book was the key forum in which he made his case. In the end, the book has survived as a primary source on the revolution.

War, Revolution, and Governance: The Baltic Countries in the Twentieth Century, edited by Lazar Fleishman & Amir Weiner, was published by Academic Studies Press in June 2018.

During the 20th century the region was subjected to the Russification drive of the late imperial era. It was also the crucible of key battles during and mass refugee crises following World War I. In the interwar period, the rise of the independent Baltic states precipitated political experiments and population politics together with constant maneuvering to preserve their fragile sovereignty. World War II ushered in a period of occupations, deportations, the Holocaust, the subjection of the territory to the communist experiment, and ultimately, the decimation of state sovereignty for the next four decades. The outcome of this course of events has been the focus of the large powers that sought to dominate and shape the region. This volume shifts the attention to the local point of view through the writing of Baltic scholars: The essays explore key junctures in the history of the three Baltic countries as viewed "from within."

Academic Studies Press published Marcia Morris' *Writing the Time of Troubles: False Dmitry in Russian Literature* in August 2018. Is each moment in history unique, or do essential situations repeat themselves? The traumatic events associated with the man who reigned as Tsar Dmitry have haunted the Russian imagination for four hundred years. Was Dmitry legitimate, the last scion of the House of Rurik, or was he an upstart pretender? A harbinger of Russia's doom or a herald of progress? *Writing the Time of Troubles* traces the proliferation of fictional representations of Dmitry in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Russia, showing how playwrights and novelists reshaped and appropriated his brief and equivocal career as a means of drawing attention to and negotiating the social anxieties of their own times.

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

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

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Deadlines for submissions (ads, articles, announcements)

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



Institutional Member News

HARVARD UKRAINIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FELLOWS

The Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University welcomes nine research fellows to carry out projects at Harvard:

Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, HURI Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies* for “In Search of History’s Other Subjects: Oral History of Decollectivization in Ukraine in the 1990s”

Gennadii Korolov, Mihaychuk Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “Ukrainian State-Building and Federalism (1917-1921): Is It an Affirmative Interaction?”

Robert Romanchuk, HURI Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “The Old Slavic Digenis Akritis (The Deeds of the Brave Men of Old): A Critical Edition”

Hanna Abakunova, Mihaychuk Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “Ukrainians and Others in the World War II: Interethnic Relations and Rescue of Jews and Roma in Southern Ukraine”

Georgiy Kasianov, Jacyk Distinguished Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “Image of the Other: Uses and Abuses (Poland – Ukraine – Russia, Short 20th Century)”

Nataliya Kibita, HURI Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “Soviet Legacy in Ukrainian Post-Soviet Politics: Continuity and Discontinuity of Political Institutions in Ukraine between 1917 and 1996”

Alessandro Milani, Mihaychuk Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “Greek Catholic Ukrainian Galicians and Carpatho-Ukrainians in the Context of Interwar Breakdown and Recomposition of National Entities (1919-1938/39)”

Mykola Riabchuk, HURI Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies for “Slavia Orthodoxa and Challenges of Modernization: Construction of Modern Ukrainian, Russian, and Belarusian Identities as Emancipation from the East Slavonic ‘Imagined Community’”

Viktorya Sereda, HURI MAPA Project Research Fellow for “Religious, Social, and Political Dimensions of Regionalism in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine”

For additional information about these fellows and their research projects, visit: <https://huri.harvard.edu/news/news-from-huri/351-announcing-huri-s-2018-2019-research-fellows.html>

* The Institute has started awarding HURI Research Fellowships in Ukrainian Studies, which carry on the legacy of the Shklar Fellowship program and are supported by a combination of HURI endowment funds.

CfP: HAVIGHURST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND POST-SOVIET STUDIES YOUNG RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE The conference, “Technologies and Narratives of Truth and Power”, will be held April 4-6, 2019.

As early as the reign of Peter I the state envisioned its might

in scientific as well as military terms. Beginning in the late 1940s fields from literature to physics shaped and responded to the scientific discoveries of first the Cold War and then its aftermath. In the USSR the case for linking technology and power was obvious as future dissident Andrei Sakharov advanced Soviet nuclear capabilities. In the coming decades authors such as Valentin Rasputin critiqued the human and ecological costs of putative progress while mathematician-turned-writer I. Grekova extolled the creativity of those in the STEM fields. For late-Soviet culture the scientific-technical revolution remade both everyday life and the way ordinary people imagined it.

Scholarly interrogations that link this current concern to historically grounded, contextually-informed developments are essential. Socialist regimes relied on technologies of surveillance that have been transformed in myriad ways since the end of planned economic and political systems. Also, cognitive work and workers have become a crucial part of the global economy, and technology’s flexibility and fluidity have become significant objects of analysis for scholars.

This workshop-style conference invites proposals on the broad themes of technology, narratives, truth, and power. Themes include but are not limited to histories of science and

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technology; the growth of information technology sectors in the region; the role of technology in literature; coding, hacking, and liberation technology; critical definitions of science and technology; technology and power in global politics; surveillance regimes; and how all of the above relate to ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, truth, and power.

The Havighurst Center welcomes papers from scholars who are completing their dissertation or have received their PhD (or candidate degree) within the past five years. The small number of participants and mix of junior and senior scholars make the Havighurst Center's Young Researchers Conference an excellent venue for both advancing research projects and networking with leading and upcoming figures in a wide range of fields. The working language of the conference is English.

Please email one-page, abstract and one-page CV to havighurstcenter@miamioh.edu by November 15.

The Havighurst Center will provide meals and hotel accommodation in Oxford as well as ground transportation. Partial travel funding may be available.

HOOVER INSTITUTION NEWS

In anticipation of a significant construction and renovation project, the Library & Archives reading rooms will be closed to researchers from December 24, 2018, until early 2020. During this period, collections and our public services will be unavailable, but collecting, exhibition program, digitization projects, and other activities will continue. The changes are part of a multi-year master plan that will see new and improved facilities across the Hoover campus and a new strategic vision for the Library & Archives. Specifically, these efforts will

result in state-of-the-art storage facilities for the collections, improved digitization facilities, a shift in the exhibition gallery, and more. Although reading rooms will be closed, the Library & Archives exhibitions and the Hoover Tower rotunda will be open—including a new exhibition celebrating our centennial next year. Digital collections will be available online and public programming will continue. Most importantly, all of the behind-the-scenes activities that sustain and make the library and archives strong will continue.

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER
Pending funding, the Kennan Institute will announce its scholarships later this fall. Please see the website for more details: <https://bit.ly/1Pji4LT>.

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following scholars:

Title VIII Research Scholars

Maria Blackwood, PhD, Harvard University, "Personal Experiences of Nationality and Power in Soviet Kazakhstan"

Title VIII Short Term Scholars

Nina Bogdan, PhD, University of Arizona, "Creating a Russian-American Identity in Interwar and Post-War San Francisco"

George F. Kennan Fellows

Farrukh Irnazarov, Country Director, Central Asian Development Institute, "Russia's Migration Policy and its Implications for Central Asian Labor Migrants: Reassessing the Risk of Religious Radicalization"

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LANGUAGE STUDY

Provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad

Fellowships are available to advanced-level students of Russian and Persian language who plan to participate in the American Councils Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (RLASP) in Moscow, and the Eurasian Regional Language Program (ERLP) in Dushanbe.

Awards are made in the amount of **\$7,000 for semester programs** and **\$4,000 for summer programs**.

All competitions for funding are merit-based. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

CONTACT: outbound@americancouncils.org



Seçkin Köstem, Assistant Professor, Bilkent University, "Imagining Eurasia: Russia's Changing National Economic Interests?"

ADA BOOTH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AT MONASH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

In celebration of the inaugural round of the Ada Booth Research Fellowship, Monash University Library has announced three scholars will be in residence from August until December 2018, with a fourth fellow yet to be announced for 2019.

Dr Geoffrey Brown will research the anti-communist activism of the Czechoslovak community in Australia from 1950 to 1990 through the Czech-language press in Australia.

Dr Marta Havryshko will explore women's experiences of the Ukrainian nationalist underground in the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and Ukrainian Insurgent Army.

Dr Simone Bellezza will research human rights activism in Ukrainian Australian university students and institutions in the 1970s to the 1990s.

The fellowship aims to promote the use of the Slavic collection and to support and strengthen the Slavic Studies community in Australia through a benefaction from the late Ada Phyllis Booth (1921-2008). For more information about the fellowship, the fellows' research projects, and public seminars, please visit monash.edu/library/collections/special/ada-booth.

ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM AT RUTGERS ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION FOR FALL 2018

"Dialogues – The 60s Generation: Lydia Masterkova/Evgenii Rukhin" will be open October 13, 2018 to March 17, 2019. This exhibition is the first in a series that pairs artists who were prominent in dissident circles, but whose careers have been overlooked by histories of unofficial art outside Russia. It includes major paintings by both artists, as well as a group of works on paper by others associated with the 1960s as a generation that has indelibly shaped the understanding of Russia's unofficial art world.

Lydia Masterkova (1929-2002) was associated with the Lianozovo group of artists and writers who gathered on the outskirts of Moscow in what had been a gulag for women. Her abstract paintings are often exhibited with those of her husband, Vladimir Nemukhin; however, she responded to the shared legacy of abstract painting in Russia more in the manner of Rukhin than other Lianozovo artists. Evgenii Rukhin (1943-1976) worked in Leningrad and was one of the figures closest to Norton Dodge, who was an avid collector of both artists' work. His paintings often incorporated the wording of official decrees, street signage, and debris, together with traces of religious imagery. In this respect, abstract painting retained an appeal not only as a signal of personal independence and avant-garde inheritance. Their paintings betray allusive layers of Russia's cultural past that bind them to their time and place.

Organized by Jane A. Sharp, Research Curator for Soviet Nonconformist Art, and Julia Tulovsky, Curator for Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art.

YALE UNIVERSITY HIRING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Yale University's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position as Assistant Professor, with an anticipated appointment start date of July 2019. While the area of specialization is open, candidates with expertise in drama and performance studies, ethnicity studies, gender studies, and the 18th-early 19th centuries are particularly welcome. The successful candidate will possess native or near-native fluency in Russian.

Selected candidates must have a PhD or equivalent degree at time of hire. To ensure full consideration, please submit all application materials (cover letter, current CV, writing sample of no more than 25 pages prepared for anonymous review, a minimum of three letters of recommendation from outside Yale) addressed to Professor John MacKay, Chair, by October 15, 2018 at <http://apply.interfolio.com/54722>. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2018 and continue until the position is filled. Preliminary interviews will take place by Skype and/or at the ASEES convention in Boston, December 7-9. Address any questions to john.mackay@yale.edu.

Yale University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Yale values diversity among its students, staff and faculty and strongly welcomes applications from women, persons with disabilities, protected veterans, and underrepresented minorities.

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Spotlight: Society for Romanian Studies

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) has had a growth spurt in membership during the last decade. Judging by the registered participants at its most recent conference held in Bucharest in June 2018, the Society has approximately 450 members working in 27 countries. Each of the last three conferences in 2012, 2015, and 2018 saw more panels and attendees than the previous one, and each had an identifying theme. “#Romania100: Looking Forward through the Past” marked the centennial of the 1918 Great Union, and many panels and round-tables reflected on the Great Union of 1918, the enlarged country’s regions, minority populations, political challenges and historiography.

The 2018 opening reception took place on June 25 in the elegant halls of the Academy of Economic Sciences (ASE), the institution that hosted the SRS conference this time. On this occasion the tenth annual graduate student essay prize was awarded, months earlier than is customary (usually at the November ASEEEES convention). The winner this year was Alexandra Chiriac, a doctoral candidate in the History of Art at the University of St. Andrews. Her essay, “Romanian Modernism and the Perils of the Peripheral,” is part of her Ph.D. thesis, “*Oriental Constructivism? The Search for Modernity in Decorative & Applied Arts in Interwar Bucharest*.” It was chosen from among twenty submissions (from UK, Romania, Canada, US, Germany, Ireland, Austria, and Italy, spread among several disciplines: History, Art History, Anthropology, Education, Philosophy, Slavic Studies, Literature, Archaeology, Diplomatic Studies, Political Science, Jewish Studies, and Tourism/Geography). Chiriac re-examines the artistic contributions of Max Hermann Maxy (1895-1971), in particular his set and costume designs for the Vilna Troupe, which performed in Bucharest in the mid-1920s. Chiriac places her research in the context of the debate over the relationship between margins and peripheries in artistic production, movements, and creativity. Another highlight of the 2018 conference was Katherine Verdery’s keynote address, “Thoughts on a Century of Surveillance,” in which she reflected on the history of the Romanian secret services.

The triennial SRS conferences have encouraged collaborations across borders. To give just one example, Religious Studies scholar James Kapaló of University College Cork is Principal Investigator of the European Research Council Project “Creative Agency and Religious Minorities: Hidden Galleries in the Secret Police Archives

in Central and Eastern Europe,” which explores the ways in which vernacular religious groups resisted authoritarian and totalitarian regimes in Romania, Hungary and Moldova in the 20th century. Among his collaborators is historian Anca Şincan, from the “Gheorghe Şincai” Research Institute in Târgu Mureş. Both Kapaló and Şincan have been elected members of the SRS Executive Board. Several of the project’s researchers presented and received critical feedback on their findings at the recent SRS conference.

SRS conferences have not been limited to papers, but have also included films. This year we screened Cristi Puiu’s “*Sieranevada*” (2016) and Radu Jude’s “*Țara Moartă*” (2017), the latter followed by the round-table: “Radu Jude’s difficult histories: fiction, history, archive” focused on Jude’s role as historian, his use of archives and diaries, and his foregrounding of neglected subjects like Roma slavery in his film “*Aferim*.”

SRS has recently partnered with Polirom Publishing House in Iași to bring out books in a series titled *Studii Românești / Romanian Studies / Études Roumaines / Rumänische Studien* co-edited by Lavinia Stan and myself. We have published five volumes, translated from English: Cristina Vătulescu, *Police Aesthetics* (Stanford, 2010, Polirom 2017); Lavinia Stan & Diane Vancea, eds., *Post-Communist Romania at 25* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015, Polirom 2017); Alex Drace-Francis, *The Making of Modern Romanian Culture* (I. B. Tauris, 2006, Polirom 2016); Vladimir Solonari, *Purifying the Nation: Population Exchange and Ethnic Cleansing in Nazi-Allied Romania, 1940-1944* (Johns Hopkins, 2010, Polirom 2015); and Roland Clark, *Holy Legionary Youth: Fascist Activism in Interwar Romania* (Cornell, 2015, Polirom 2015). Three more are forthcoming: Maria Bucur, *Heroes and Victims: Remembering Romania’s World Wars in the Twentieth Century* (Indiana University Press, 2009); Diana Dumitru, *The State, Antisemitism, and Collaboration in the Holocaust: the Borderlands of Romania and the Soviet Union* (Cambridge, 2016); and Margaret Beissinger, Speranța Rădulescu, & Anca Giurchescu, eds., *Manele in Romania: Cultural Expression and Social Meaning in Balkan Popular Music* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016). We are always looking for good proposals.

Irina Livezeanu is the Director of Jewish Studies and an Associate Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also the Past-President of SRS.



Affiliate Group News

CfP 9th BIENNIAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN SLAVIC STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) solicits paper presentations on the theme of “Crossing Borders in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Women’s and Gender Studies” for its 9th Biennial Conference to be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at the Renaissance Battle House Hotel and Spa in Mobile, Alabama. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the SCSS, which will be held March 14-16. AWSS conference participants are encouraged to attend and participate in the SCSS conference as well (a separate CFP is posted below), and can attend both conferences with the same registration.

The conference theme seeks to draw attention to the ways that Slavic Women’s and Gender Studies increasingly breaches national, disciplinary, and chronological boundaries. Scholars of Eastern Europe and Eurasia have long engaged in comparative work, enhanced of late with a focus on transnational and international linkages. Interdisciplinarity continues to erode methodological silos, while fresh examination of conventional periodization puts eras once cordoned off from each other into illuminating dialogue. We invite potential participants to address the notion of “crossing borders” understood in this broad literal and figurative sense. The keynote speaker will be Tricia Starks, Associate Professor of History at the University of Arkansas. Starks’s work interrogates the intersection of culture and public health in Russia and the USSR.

The conference organizers welcome proposals from scholars at all stages in their careers and in any discipline of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. They especially encourage graduate students to participate in this conference. Proposals should consist of a: 250-word abstract of the paper, including the paper’s title; one-page CV, including the author’s affiliation and contact information. Proposals are due by December 15 to Paula Michaels, Associate Professor of History, Monash University (paula.michaels@monash.edu). AWSS has limited funds to help defer the costs of attendance for graduate students. Please indicate in your proposal if you are interested in applying for graduate student funding.

CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY ANNOUNCE ALLWORTH LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) and the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, are delighted to announce the renaming of the CESS Lifetime Service to the Field Award in honor of the late scholar of Central Asia, Professor Edward Allworth (1920-2016). The new award will be named the Edward Allworth Lifetime Service to the Profession Award and will be awarded annually to an individual in recognition of extraordinary lifetime achievement in the field of Central Eurasian Studies.

Edward Allworth was the first recipient of the CESS Lifetime Service to the Field, awarded posthumously in 2016.

Allworth, a pioneer in Central Asian Studies, was founding director of both the Program on Soviet Nationality Problems (1970) and the Center for Central Asian Studies (1984) at the Harriman Institute. Beyond an impressive body of research and scholarly accomplishments, Allworth was widely known for his infectious enthusiasm for Central Asian studies and his dedication to students. More information about the Edward Allworth Lifetime Service to the Profession Award: <https://www.centraleurasia.org/awards/service/>

CfP: 57TH ANNUAL MEETING SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES

The Fifty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will be held at the Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa in Mobile, Alabama, March 14-17, 2019. The meeting will be hosted by the University of South Alabama. The purpose of SCSS is to promote scholarship,

Wallin Postdoctoral Fellowship in Russian and Modern European History

The Department of History at Macalester College announces an opening for a two-year Wallin Postdoctoral Fellowship in Russian/Modern European History, to begin in Fall 2019. Applicants should have a PhD at the time of appointment in the field of Russian history. The annual starting salary for the position is \$70,000, plus full benefits and funds to support research and travel.

The successful candidate would teach courses that would cover Russia and modern Europe. We welcome candidates with a secondary specialization in another field, such as environmental studies, urban studies, Jewish studies, digital humanities, Eurasian history, or the history of science and technology. We welcome candidates who complement but do not replicate existing strengths in the History department. Scholarly promise, college teaching experience, and knowledge of current pedagogical methodologies are highly desirable. The position entails teaching three courses per year, at least two of which could be cross-listed with the Russian Studies department. We are looking for dynamic, broadly trained, theoretically informed scholar-teachers who are committed to the study of Russian history as an integral part of the undergraduate liberal arts curriculum.

Interested candidates may find further information, view the application requirements, and apply online at <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/fellowship/12132>

education, and in all other ways to advance scholarly interest in Russian, Soviet, and East European studies in the Southern region of the United States and nationwide. Membership in SCSS is open to all persons interested in furthering these goals.

The John Shelton Curtiss Lecture at the Friday Banquet will be given by Dr. Kate Brown, Professor of History at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Her banquet talk, derived from her forthcoming book, is titled "Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future."

Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome, as is a focus on countries other than Russia/USSR. They encourage participation from scholars of all Slavic, East European, and Eurasian regions. Papers can be on any time period and any topic relevant to these regions.

The program committee is accepting panel and paper proposals until January 15, 2019. Whole panel proposals or roundtables are preferred, but proposals for individual papers will also be accepted. Panel proposals should include the titles of each individual paper as well as a title for the panel itself and contact information for all participants. Roundtable proposals should include a title and identifying information for all participants. Proposals for individual papers should include paper title, identifying information, and a one-paragraph

abstract. If any AV equipment will be needed, proposals must indicate so when they are submitted. AV will be of limited availability and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Email proposals and questions about the program to Emily Baran at scssprogram@gmail.com. For local arrangements or conference information contact Mara Kozelsky at mkozelsky@southalabama.edu.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SLAVIC STUDIES

WASS 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the WASS 2019 conference in San Diego, CA (April 24-27, 2019, in San Diego, CA at the Manchester Grand Hyatt). They hold their annual conference as part of the Western Social Science Association; please register on their website: <http://wssaweb.com/sections> and follow the instructions for paper or panel submission under the "Slavic and Eurasian Studies" section. Deadline for submission is 1 December 2018.

They will accept papers from any academic discipline covering the range of Slavic and Eurasian studies. For questions see the website above or email robert.niebuhr@asu.edu



Personages

Marina Alexandrova received a promotion to Senior Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin.

Gary B. Cohen (Prof. Emer. of History, Univ. of Minnesota) was awarded the František Palacký Honorary Medal for Merit in Historical Sciences by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in June 2018.

Patrice Dabrowski has become a member of the board of directors of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.

Bruce Grant has been named Chair of the Department of Anthropology at New York University.

Thaddeus Gromada's publication, "The Tatra Eagle," received the prestigious Pskar Kolberg Award for its contributions to Polish folk culture in the US and Poland over a period of over seventy years.

Simon Ertz has been named the Hoover Centennial Librarian for Collection Analysis.

UT Austin Polish language Lecturer **Bernadeta Kaminska** was awarded the TLC Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award.

The Ford Foundation awarded **Sarah Lewis** a grant for the creation of the Vision and Justice Project at Harvard University.

James Loeffler has been promoted to Full Professor and named Berkowitz Chair in Jewish History at the University of Virginia.

Danielle N. Lussier was promoted to Associate Professor at Grinnell College.

Erika Monahan is teaching at Dartmouth College as a visiting associate professor for the 2018-19 year.

Colleen Moore accepted a new position as an Assistant Professor of Russian/World History at James Madison University, effective August 2018.

Kristina Reardon was awarded a 2019 National Endowment for the Arts grant for \$12,500 to translate a Slovene novel by Natasa Kramberger.

Magda Romanska won the 2018 Elliott Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy for launching and editing *The Theatre Times* worldwide news platform.

Karin Steinbrueck is now Assistant Professor, Humanities / Social Science at National Louis University, Chicago IL.

Sylvia Sztern received a Post Doctoral Fellowship at Department of History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem Israel for 2018- 2019.

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 Date: 2014.08.12 13:13:58 -0400

Date: **October 1, 2018**

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