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On January 16, 1969, on Wenceslas Square in Prague, twenty-year-old Jan Palach doused himself in gasoline and struck a match. In his suicide note – or rather, his manifesto – he vehemently condemned the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia and the regression to hardline Communist propaganda and draconian censorship. Three days later, suffering severe disfiguring burns on 85% of his body, Palach died in a hospital. Forty-four years later, HBO made a mini-series about it.

HBO’s *Burning Bush* (*Holící keř, 2013*) indicates an ongoing shift in the representation of monumentalized historical events. Proliferating in television and big-budget blockbusters, they no longer belong exclusively to the realm of high culture, nor do these depictions aspire to maintain a somber tone. But can commercial cinema and television do the kind of memory work typically done in higher cultural registers, they never lived under Communism. After all, there is an ongoing shift in the representation of monumentalized historical events. Proliferating in television and big-budget blockbusters, they no longer belong exclusively to the realm of high culture, nor do these depictions aspire to maintain a somber tone. But can commercial cinema and television do the kind of memory work typically done in higher cultural registers? Are these new depictions merely opportunistic, or can they be somehow commemorative and therefore politicized? The irreverent historical inaccuracy and farcical nature of Armando Iannucci’s *The Death of Stalin* (2017) – adapted from the eponymous and equally fanciful graphic novel by Thierry Robin and Fabien Nury – did not prevent it from sparking heated debate and igniting a scandal in Russia. Terry George’s *The Promise* (2016) received outstandingly bad reviews and failed at the box office, but was nonetheless lauded for shining a spotlight on the Armenian genocide. FX’s Cold War period drama *The Americans* (2013-2018) is mentioned in just about every op-ed on US-Russia relations. In the case of the Prague Spring, this tectonic shift in modes and registers of representation is overlaid by a changing attitude toward the events of 1968.

German historian Jan Pauer trenchantly remarks that the Prague Spring has been consistently fetishized by the West, while in the former Czechoslovakia, perception of the nascent liberalization of 1968 has changed over time. On the one hand, the Prague Spring presaged the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and has thus become regarded, because of its failure, as “the historical end of reform communism.” Famously, 1989 witnessed a demonstration in honor of the twentieth anniversary of Palach’s self-immolation, as well as the return of Alexander Dubček and Václav Havel into the public eye. On the other hand, the backlash against all things Soviet that swept across the former Eastern Bloc in the 1990s cast a shadow on the Prague Spring’s glorified legacy, and it became remembered as “primarily a struggle between various communist parties and the whole event is viewed as an episode in the history of an absurd experiment – communism.” In other words, the memory of 1968 appears to have been overlaid by the chronology of late and post-Communism. But what about now? Soviet socialism has been extinct for too long and in many ways, the term “post-Communism” is already obsolete. After all, there is now a generation of adults born after 1989/1991 who never lived under Communism. So how do we approach the Prague Spring on the cusp of its 50th anniversary?

A recent conference entitled *1968–1989: Paris-Prague offered yet another retrospective reconceptualization of the event. Not only was 1989 presented as “a mere inversion of spring 1968” – evoking a popular poster that showed “89” as an upside-down mirror image of “68” (see figure above) – but the insistence on a parallel between the Prague Spring and Mai 68 demonstrated an attempt to examine the events in Czechoslovakia from a broader international perspective, rather than just in the context of Communism, and to fully inscribe it in the global 1968, as it were. Paired with the changing modes of representation that I mentioned earlier, the end of post-Communism and the reconceptualization of the Prague Spring in an international context call for the creation of new forums and approaches to the study of the events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia and their aftermath. Such is the rationale behind *Prague Spring on Screen*, a panel series sponsored by the ASEEES Working Group on Cinema and Television (WGCTV), which will take place at this year’s annual convention in Boston.

Although primarily focusing on cinematic representations of political liberalization and the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, *Prague Spring on Screen* strives for maximum interdisciplinarity in order to assess the legacy of 1968 across time, genres, and media. To this end, the WGCTV is bringing together experts from a number of fields, including art history,
architecture, film theory, and Slavic studies. The panels are organized in a way that will allow screen representations of the Prague Spring to be discussed both synchronically and diachronically. From the Prague Spring and the Soviet invasion to Husak’s normalization, to Charta 77, to the Velvet Revolution to post-Communism, the series will examine the far-reaching repercussions of 1968. At the same time, the panels will avoid a purely historiographic, chronological approach and will investigate the events of 1968 from a broadly interdisciplinary and cross-media perspective.

A panel entitled Witnessing 1968 will assume the ambiguous task of investigating how the Warsaw Pact invasion volatilized the relationship between documentary and fiction film in former Czechoslovakia and Poland. Tracing the unstable relationship between reality and fiction across a broad array of works – from such classics as Karel Kachyňa’s The Year (1969) to post-communist productions such as Evald Schorm’s Confusion – the panel will examine the difference between narrating and documenting such diverse phenomena as the Czech New Wave, samizdat, and panel housing to help participants unpack such complex categories as genre, gender, space, and cultural resistance.

Finally, the fourth panel will zero in on the difference between Czech and Slovak cinematic representations of the Prague Spring, and juxtapose them with Hollywood’s own take on the events. This way, the panel will not only consider international perspectives on the Warsaw Pact invasion but will also address the sensitive question of different responses to it by Czechs and Slovaks. In addition, it will raise the question of ethnic identity in times of political unrest. The panel will also discuss a number of recent films dedicated to the Prague Spring, revealing a changing attitude to the events of 1968 at the beginning of the twenty-first century. WGCTV will conclude the series with a screening of Peter Kerekes’ Occupation 1968 (2017), an anthology of five documentary films from Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Russia – the former Warsaw Pact countries that invaded Czechoslovakia on the night of August 20, 1968.

I would like to return here to the question with which I began my essay, namely whether we can consider contemporary popular culture depictions of tragic historical events as being something other than opportunistic. Fredric Jameson notes that “to permit a far more adequate account of the mechanisms of [...] mass culture [one has to] grasp [it] not as an empty distraction or ‘mere’ false consciousness, but rather as a transformational work on social and political anxieties and fantasies which must then have some effective presence in the mass culture text in order subsequently to be ‘managed’ or repressed.” What is the meaning of the Prague Spring in 2018? A number of political scientists concur that in many countries worldwide, the present is an era of post-democracy. This is a new kind of politics that created a society of spectacle, and not merely in a Debordian sense. It has limited citizens’ role to that of impulsive spectators of political games in which they do not participate and on which they have no bearing. The Soviet Union’s non-participatory and exclusionary politics suddenly appear to have gotten a second life and a number of specters across the world. Revisiting Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact invasion on the eve of its 50th anniversary can allow us not only to examine the changing modes of representation but also to start a conversation on what history can teach us as we face the challenges and dangers of a post-democratic world.

2018 ASEEES Board Election

We are pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the 2018 election for positions on the ASEEES Board of Directors: Vice President/President-Elect and two Members-at-Large, serves three-year terms from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. We thank them for their willingness to stand as candidates to serve on the ASEEES Board.

Candidates for Vice President / President Elect
Jan Kubik, Rutgers University and University College London
Graeme B. Robertson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Candidates for Members-at-Large
Thomas Jesús Garza (Slavic Studies), University of Texas at Austin
Eileen Kane (History), Connecticut College
Maria Popova (Political Science), McGill University
Magda Romanska (Theater), Emerson College

For more information on the election including the candidate bios, visit our website: Information on how to vote will be distributed by email to current members of ASEEES by mid-June.

Endnotes
2 Ibid.

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What are our defining moments? They wind through 70 years and countless memories, each one stamping a mark on the landscape of our field. Together, with our members, ASEEES has

- Created an intellectual hub for interdisciplinary understanding of the field
- Curated and disseminated a wealth of knowledge
- Supported innovative research and teaching
- Inspired and advocated for scholarship
- Fueled the transformation of the field

Please share your defining moments in the field by sending stories, images, and videos to newsnet@pitt.edu or by posting on the ASEEES Commons group Celebrating ASEEES Anniversaries. Your stories and photos may be shared.
In Search of the “Perfect Collection”: ARmenian Studies COLlections at the UC-Berkeley LIBRARY

Liladhar R. Pendse
UC BERKELEY

As an interdisciplinary area of inquiry at a historical crossroads of language, religion, ethnicity, and empire, Armenian Studies poses particular challenges for librarians. As libraries attempt to build modern research collections attuned to the present and future needs of Armenian Studies scholars, it is important to solicit the input of both researchers and of professional associations devoted to the field.

Introduction and Statement of the Problem

As my colleagues and I try to understand and analyze the unattainable ideal of a “perfect collection that supports Armenian Studies,” several key questions emerge. Historically speaking, existing collections at the majority of the North American universities are a function of personnel investments and financial investments over time. How can one define and measure the impact of such collections on the community of scholars and students in the face of differing philosophical collection scopes, as well as perceived job-related limitations on the possibility of building collections for research and teaching purposes? Can one even aspire to build a “perfect collection” for a niche discipline such as Armenian Studies? For present purposes, I define Armenian Studies as an interdisciplinary field that is devoted to the study of Armenians, Armenia, Armenian diaspora communities, and the Armenian Genocide.

The definition of what constitutes the topos of Armenia has changed throughout history, which in turn means that the present day Republic of Armenia represents an important but geographically limited part of the historical Armenian homeland. In this paper, I briefly describe the challenges and opportunities that librarians encounter when they begin to assess their collections.

Background

The history of the development of the Armenian collections at the UC Berkeley Library remains understudied. The establishment of the Armenian Studies program at UC Berkeley in 1996 was a result of efforts a group of Armenian-American community members in Bay Area that led to the establishment of the Krouzian Endowment. In summer 2002, Professor Stephan Astourian became the Executive Director of the Armenian Studies Program and Assistant Adjunct Professor of History. He focused on building a comprehensive curriculum on contemporary Armenian history, language, social issues, and culture, which in turn encouraged the library to continue developing its Armenian collections for research and teaching purposes. It could do so by building upon its collection of rare Armenian books and manuscripts, many of them donated by Phoebe Apperson Hearst.

Skills, Challenges and Opportunities

Before my arrival in 2012, our library’s Armenian collections had evolved as an effort of collaboration between the curators, donors, and faculty members. There are several challenges that a library can face when it comes to developing Armenian Studies collections. It is difficult to find the qualified curators who are familiar with both Eastern and Western Armenian dialects, Armenian grammar and paleography, along with the working knowledge of Ottoman Turkish, Russian, Persian, French, and other languages that are used by the members of Armenian diaspora.

Although manuscripts, rare and common printed books, periodicals continue to remain the focus of many Armenian community in the Bay Area by attending several on-campus and off-campus lectures and events. This generated several donations of Armenian books that were published in Boston, Fresno, Glendale, and other parts of the United States in the 1950s and ’60s. My own experiences in dealing with the donors and well-wishers from the local Armenian diaspora community have been rewarding. I noted that the diversity of the Armenian diaspora community in the Bay Area has been particularly rewarding. I noted that the diversity of the Armenian diaspora community in the Bay Area has been particularly rewarding.

From UCLA Digital Collections
The other decision that I made was to also collect born-digital Armenian Studies materials. This did not mean that I did not collect print materials related to Armenian Studies in various languages; I frequently collaborated with other Area Studies curators to collect materials that were published in their areas of responsibility, such as materials published in Latin America, the Middle East, etc. To date, at the Doe Library there are 1,603 print monographic titles in Armenian. However, not all of our Armenian-language books are held in our main stacks. A part of the collection is located in the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF), which serves as our off-site storage.

As of January 2018, there were 1,012 Armenian-language books held by the NRLF. Therefore, the total number of books with a publication date of 2010 or later in our Doe Library’s collection is 2,615. Out of these 2,615 books, since my arrival, I was able to purchase 412. This represents approximately 16% of the total number of titles added as a part of my strategy to rejuvenate our Armenian collections. There are currently several other libraries on campus to whom I refer Armenian titles that come in on the approval plan that I manage. I did not take into consideration these titles for the purposes of this introductory article.

The other tool that I used to gauge the strengths of UC Berkeley’s Armenian Studies collections was OCLC’s WorldShare Collection Analysis Tool. The WorldShare tool allows us to analyze our collection for its uniqueness.

Leveraging Digital Resources

To return to the question of born-digital Armenian Studies materials, an important part of UC Berkeley’s Armenian Studies collection development strategy centers around the leveraging of current technological capabilities to harness and harvest relevant online content. To this end, I conducted a cursory survey of the digital assets at our library that were related to Armenian Studies. I also surveyed open-access Armenian Studies e-resources located at other universities. The Online Archive of California provides us with access to metadata about 299 Armenian Studies collections indexed in the OAC. Out of these, the UC Berkeley Library deposited 49 collections.

For early Armenian manuscripts one can also use the Digital Scriptorium, as well as sources from other institutions such as UCLA. Another readily available resource often overlooked by librarians is the collection of Armenian Studies materials at the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). Only last year the CRL announced the purchase of Armenian diaspora newspapers like Aravnots, Aravot, and others. This was a result of my proposing the purchase of these important newspaper titles to CRL.

One way to distinguish one’s collections related to Armenian Studies would be to launch a new digital project that will be both sustainable and useful to the scholars of the future. In consultation with faculty members at UC Berkeley, for example, I launched a web-archiving project called The Armenian Social Organizations of North America Archive. The project selectively harvests and archives the web sites of a set of eighteen North American Armenian social organizations for posterity. The archived materials include born-digital documents, audio-visual clips and other aspects of these websites. The archive is publicly available at the following address: https://archive-it.org/collections/9254.

This project is not primarily intended to add to my strategies of creating a “perfect” Armenian Studies collection, but rather to preserve for posterity the websites of the Armenian diaspora in North America.

Lastly, I would like to share our Armenian Studies Library guide, which I created in an attempt to provide information about the UC Berkeley Library’s Armenian Studies collections as well as open-access resources. The guide is not a comprehensive pathfinder to Armenian Studies as an interdisciplinary area studies field, but it does introduce our students and faculty to currently available Armenian Studies resources.

Conclusion

This work highlights only a few of the issues that are associated with building, sustaining and developing Armenian Studies collections in the context of an academic library. I contend that the perfect collection of Armenian Studies materials cannot exist at a single institution, but will depend on linking of multiple collections that are scattered across institutions. Besides the financial climates of the “new normal” that we all encounter, the paucity of Armenian Studies programs, along with their interdisciplinary nature, sometimes places Armenian Studies collections on the periphery of Slavic and East European Studies as well as Middle or Near Eastern Studies. Also both the analog and digital collections and materials in academic libraries are proudly displayed in a fundraising context, these often represent past acquisitions that date back several decades. It is advisable that librarians responsible for Armenian Studies collections should consider an alternative collaborative collection development strategy across the multiple US academic libraries.

Liladhär R. Pendse is a librarian for Slavic, East European, Caucasus and Central Asian Studies and Latin American Studies collections at UC Berkeley. He also serves as a campus-wide coordinator for the Center for Research Libraries and contributes scholarly articles on Open Access in Eastern and Central Europe as well as on materials in less commonly taught languages.

(Endnotes)

1 Antaramian, Carlos. Del Ararat Al Popocatépetl: Los Armenios En México. Mexico: Aip-Pen-Kim Ediciones, 2015. Print. I had purchased this book during my visit to Mexico using the funds that were authorized by our recently retired Latin American Studies librarian Dr. Carlos Delgado.

2 The data was obtained only for the completely cataloged books, as reflected in UC Berkeley’s OskiCat. I chose the cutoff date of 2010 for the year of publication.

3 For example, as of January 2018, there were 52 titles in Armenian that were located at the Music Library.


7 “CRL FY17 PURCHASE PROPOSAL ITEMS APPROVED FOR ACQUISITIONS” CRL, www.clrc.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/pag es/2017_Purchase_Proposal_Items_to_be_Acquired.pdf.


Ararat Eskijian Museum
Collaborating across Centers and Disciplines: PITT’S CENTRAL EURASIA INITIATIVE

Zsuzsánna Magdó and Nancy Condee
Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh

As U.S. universities globalize their pedagogical and research agendas, National Resource Centers like our own Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) embrace the opportunity to reach beyond their established regional and interdisciplinary focus in creative ways. REES’s latest effort to enrich regional and global studies has been to build collaborative networks across campus in a bid to pool resources and attract interest from schools whose curricula have not historically been able to leave room for international studies. A shared emphasis on trans-regional and global linkages, the CEI supports faculty and student engagement with a region that has been both a heartland and a frontier for worldwide connectivity.

Yet the expansion of our Central Eurasian programming has not come at the expense of our other core areas. As NewsNet readers are well aware, the 2017-2018 academic year was one of centennials and semi-centennials. To reflect on the historical arc of the Russian Revolution, REES held “The 1917 Centenary Series” last fall. The series featured lectures by Professor Mark Steinberg of the University of Illinois, Grace Kennan Warnecke, political consultant and daughter of George F. Kennan, and Anne Garrells, journalist for National Public Radio. These lectures are available for viewing on our center’s website by following the preceding hyperlinks. In spring 2018, REES participated in a larger collaborative project of the University Center for International Studies, “The Global Legacies of 1968” by screenings of iconic films that reflected on that momentous year in our region. Finally, in the past academic year, REES also hosted the series “Eastern Europe in the World,” featuring scholars who explore the region’s embeddedness in global histories of empire, colonialism, and connectivity.

Nancy Condee is a professor of contemporary Russian culture, cinema, and cultural politics at the University of Pittsburgh and is Director of the Center for Russian and East European Studies.

Zsuzsanna Magdó is Assistant Director for Partnerships & Programs at University of Pittsburgh Center for Russian and East European Studies.

Jennifer Murtazashvili in GSPIA, was selected to host the 2018 Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society.

The current centerpiece of the CEI is an NEH Humanities Connections Grant, awarded jointly to REES and ASC for 2018-2021. Titled “Water in Central Asia: Tributaries of Change,” (see page 30) the grant enables our centers to develop a cluster of undergraduate courses that build on another while combining disciplines in atypical ways. “Central Asian Water Past” crosses history and environmental studies; “Central Asian Water Present” brings together political science and engineering; and “Central Asian Water Future” embraces both engineering and business. The thematic concentration on water in these courses reflects the contemporary significance of this topic while providing a captivating lens to study the Central Eurasian region. The courses will follow mutually supporting trajectories: encouraging students to think about water issues on unfamiliar terrain and to explore a largely unstudied area of the world, while addressing an issue they know to be of global urgency—the need for clean, sustainable water sources.

This recent NEH award served only as the catalyst for rolling out the Central Eurasia Initiative; it is the keystone, but not the whole arch. In fact, both events reflect the culmination of several years’ worth of efforts, serendipities, and programmatic momentum that have propelled our centers at UGIG further into the field. Throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, REES and ASC co-sponsored the Exploration of Cultural Identity along the Silk Road speaker series, which served as a kind of pilot project for ongoing cross-center collaboration. Since 2016, a foundational element of our work on Central Eurasia has been our ability to hire a string of Postdoctoral Fellows specializing in the region. Their presence gave rise to an interdisciplinary Central Eurasian Studies reading group, open to faculty and students, which convenes monthly to discuss scholarly books, articles, works in progress, and other media selected on the basis of collective interest. Our Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Patryk Reid, organized an international symposium, “Rivers and History in Central Eurasia: Control, Potential and Change,” held in Pittsburgh in February 2018. In addition to its robust Russian and East European Film Collection, the University Library System recently acquired 230 Soviet-era, low print run Turkmen films in the West. Meanwhile, REES, in conjunction with Professor
AWSS AWARDS

CfS: Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes the work of a scholar in the field of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies who has also served as a mentor to female students/colleagues in this field. To submit a nomination, please write a letter detailing what your candidate for this award has achieved in Slavic Studies in terms of scholarship or other professional accomplishments, as well as mentoring of female students/colleagues. In addition, please provide a short list of references accompanying email addresses and ask these references to write a brief letter on behalf of the nominee. The committee recommends that this list include both peers and students/staff. A list of past Outstanding Achievement Award recipients is available here: http://www.awsshome.org/outstanding-achievement.html.

Please email your letter and accompanying materials by September 1, 2018, to Betty Jones Hemenway (Chair) at ehemenway@usc.edu; Paula Michaels at: paula.michaels@monash.edu; and Choi Chatterjee at: cchattere@calsatela.edu.

CfS: 2018 AWSS Graduate Research Prize

AWSS Graduate Research Prize

CfS is pleased to announce the 2018 CFs Graduate Research Prize. This prize is awarded annually to a graduate student in the field of Slavic/East European/Central Asian studies who has written a dissertation, a monograph, or a major article. This competition is open to current doctoral students and to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2017-2018. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2017-2018. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no more than 800 pages double-spaced. (2) the nominee’s current curriculum vitae, and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar’s contribution to the field, as well as work in progress.

Nominations should be sent to Marilyn Smith at msmithe@amherst.edu.

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION STANLEY Z. PECH PRIZE

Czechoslovak Studies Association Stanley Z. Pech Prize

The Pech Prize competition is open to any scholar of any gender, who has written a monograph or an edited volume on the topic of Women East-West. This competition is open to women or on a topic in Women’s or Gender Studies related to Slavic Studies. This competition is open to current doctoral students and to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2017-2018. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2017-2018. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no more than 800 pages double-spaced. (2) the nominee’s current curriculum vitae, and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar’s contribution to the field, as well as work in progress.

Nominations should be sent to Marilyn Smith at msmithe@amherst.edu.

Czechoslovak Studies Association Stanley Z. Pech Prize

The Pech Prize competition is open to any scholar of any gender, who has written a monograph or an edited volume on the topic of Women East-West. This competition is open to current doctoral students and to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2017-2018. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2017-2018. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no more than 800 pages double-spaced. (2) the nominee’s current curriculum vitae, and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar’s contribution to the field, as well as work in progress.

Nominations should be sent to Marilyn Smith at msmithe@amherst.edu.

SHERA NEWS

The SHERA Board will sponsor a panel at the 50th Annual ASEEES Convention. Hanna Chuchvaha’s panel “The Passion for Collecting: Collectors and Their Collections in Imperial Russia, 1800-1917” will include papers “Zinaida Volkonskaia’s Allee de Souvenirs” (Laura Schlössberg), “Print Collections of Female Crafts in Late Imperial Russia” (Hanna Chuchvaha); “Reform and Rehang in the Tretyakov Gallery, 1913-1917” (Isabel Stokholm). The panel will be of interest not only to art historians but also to scholars of museology, women’s studies, and visual culture.
The collection of essays published by Vladimir Tismaneanu and William Fijaloff, each chapter explores how Eastern Europe operated within the confines of the Soviet worldview, their peoples confronted the narratives of both the Iron Curtain and the Cold War. From the Soviet Union and its satellites, they heard of a West dominated by imperialist warmongers and of the glorious and only Communist discourse that shaped the Iron Curtain. A competing discourse emanated from the West, claiming that Eastern Europe was a totalitarian land of captive slaves, powerless in the face of Soviet aggression. Feinberg examines the nature of truth, using the political culture of Eastern Europe during the Cold War. She offers an interpretation of the Cold War as a shared political environment, exploring the ways in which East Europeans interacted with these competing understandings of their homeland. She looks at the relationship between the American-sponsored radio stations broadcast across the Iron Curtain and the East European emigres they interviewed. Feinberg reveals that these parties developed mutually reinforced assumptions about the meaning of Communism, helping to create the evidentiary foundation for totalitarian interpretations of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

New Directions in the History of the Jews in the Polish Lands (Academic Studies Press, 2018), edited by Antony Polonsky, Hanna Wegryniewicz and Andrzej Zbikowski, is made up of essays first presented as papers at the conference held in May 2015 at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The book is divided into two sections. The first deals with museological questions and the voices of the curators, comments on the museum and discussions of museums and education. The second examines the current state of the historiography of the Jews on the Polish lands from the first Jewish settlement to the present day. The volume provides a new overview into history and culture of one of the most important communities in the long history of the Jewish people.

Performance Art in the Second Public Sphere, edited by Katalin Cséh-Varga and Adam Czirak (Routledge, 2018), analyzes performance art in Eastern, Central, and Southeast Europe under socialist rule. By investigating the specifics of event-based art forms in these regions, the book examines the unique position of the art world in socialist societies and the particular roles that this work assumed under censorship conditions.

Putronomics: Power and Money in Resurgent Russia, by Chris Miller, was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2018. When Vladimir Putin first took power in 1999, he was a little-known figure ruling a country that was reeling from a decade-and-a-half of crisis. In the years since, he has reestablished Russia as a great power. In this analysis of Putin's Russia, Miller examines state economic policy and the tools Russia's elite have used to achieve its goals. Miller argues that despite Russia's corruption, cronyism, and overdependence on oil as an economic driver, Putin's economic strategy has been surprisingly successful.

The artistic networks of Yugoslavia, Hungary, Turkey, and Ukraine are described at the time, drawing on the methods of Performance Studies and Media Studies as well as more familiar reference points from art history and area studies.
geopolitical imagination of popular culture; the history of ethnicity, nationhood and migration; transnational formations of race and before and during state socialism, including the Non-Aligned Movement; and post-Yugoslav discourses of security, migration, terrorism and international intervention, including the War on Terror and the present refugee crisis.

Russia’s Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914-1922. Book 3: National Disintegration, edited by Christopher Read and Peter Waldron, and Adele Lindenmeyr, is now available from Slavica Publishers. For soldiers on the Great War’s Western Front the term home front suggested a degree of coziness, a place of retreat from the horrors of battle. Russia was not overwhelmed with coziness even before the war, but the early defeats, extensive conscription, deepening economic crisis, and growing political instability meant the elimination of any traces and the replacement of coziness with food shortages, strikes, disturbances, and, in 1917, full-blown revolution. Then the situation became even worse. Food shortages became famine. Economic crisis became collapse and, in 1918–20, flight from hellish cities like starving Petrograd. Political struggles became civil war. Terrible antisemitic pogroms occurred. The multiple crises engendered cholera, typhus, and influenza which ravaged malnourished bodies. On top of the war dead some ten million died in the Civil War, mainly from illnesses. The 34 contributions shine a light on these events.

The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921. By Mark Steinberg (Oxford University Press), is a new history of Russia’s revolutionary era as a story of experience—of people making sense of history as it unfolded in their own lives and as they took part in making history themselves. The events, trends, and explanations reaching from Bloody Sunday in 1905 to the final shots of the civil war in 1921, are viewed through the doubled perspective of the professional historian looking backward and the contemporary journalist reporting and interpreting history as it happened. The volume then turns toward particular places and people: city streets, peasant villages, the margins of empire (Central Asia, Ukraine, the Jewish Pale), women and men, workers and intellectuals, artists and activists, utopian visionsaries, and dissenters of all types. The major themes include difference and inequality, power and resistance, violence, and ideas about justice and freedom. This history relies extensively on contemporary texts and voices in order to bring the past and its meanings to life. This is a history about dramatic and uncertain times and especially about the interpretations, values, emotions, desires, and disappointments that made history matter to those who lived it.

The book Russians on Trump (East View Press, 2018), edited by Laurence Bogoslaw, presents a broad spectrum of discourse on Donald Trump published in the Russian press from 1997 to 2017. The content includes news articles, opinion pieces, analyses, interviews and more, most of which are appearing in English for the first time. Divided into thematic sections, each preceded by a brief introduction, Russians on Trump also includes a timeline of key events and a detailed set of citations that support and expand on the Russian press material. Rather than pursuing a political agenda, this collection aims to reveal the plurality of viewpoints that exist under Putin—from official policy mouthpieces to the pro-Western left wing to the nationalist right. The picture that emerges shows Russians’ own hopes, preconceptions and (in some cases) fantasies constructing a nuanced, multifaceted image of one of the most controversial presidents in American history.

Soviet Americans: The Cultural History of Russian and Ukrainian Americans, by Sergei Zhuk, was released in March 2018 in the US by LB Taurus. The American community played a vital role in the Cold War, as well as in large part directing the cultural consumption of Soviet society and shaping perceptions of the US. To shed light on this powerful community, Zhuk explores their history of prominent Soviet Americanists, considering the myriad cultural influences—from John Wayne’s braving the Andes Stagecoach to Miles Davis—that shaped their identities, careers and academic interests. Zhuk’s account draws on a wide range of archival documents, periodicals, letters and diaries as well as more than 100 interviews with Americanists to take the reader from the post-war origins of American studies, via the extremes of the Cold War, thaw and perestroika, to Putin’s Russia. Soviet Americans is a comprehensive insight into shifting attitudes towards the US throughout the twentieth century.

The Velizh Affair: Blood Libel in a Russian Town, by Eugene M. Avrutin, was published by Oxford University Press in December 2017. On April 22, 1823, a three-year-old boy named Fedor went to play outside. Fedor never returned home. Several days later, a neighbor found his mutilated body drained of blood and repeatedly pierced. It did not take long before rumors began to emerge that Jews murdered the little boy. The Velizh Affair reconstructs the lives of Jews and their Christian neighbors caught up in the aftermath of this criminal act. The investigation into Fedor’s death resulted in the charging of forty-three Jews with ritual murder, theft and desecration of Church property, and the forcible conversion of three town residents. Drawing on newly discovered trial records, Avrutin explores the factors that not only caused fear and conflict in everyday life, but also the social and cultural worlds of multiethnic populations that had coexisted for hundreds of years.

Beth Holmgren, in Warsaw is My Country, The Story of Krystyna Bierzyńska 1928-1945 (Academic Studies Press, 2018), tells the story of Krystyna Bierzyńska from her birth in Warsaw in 1928 through the end of WWII, when she was reunited with her brother. Dolek, an officer in the Polish II Corps. Bierzyńska not only survived the Holocaust due in large part to the extraordinary efforts of her parents, blood relatives, and surrogate Christian family, but also served as a 16-year-old orderly in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Hers is a Warsaw story, a biography that demonstrates how, in urban interwar Poland, the lives of liberal educated Catholics and acculturated, unconverted Jews significantly overlapped. Bierzyńska’s story details her experiences of two very different Warsaws: a cosmopolitan oasis of high culture, modern amenities, and tolerance, and an occupied capital intoxicated and united by conspiracy, where the residents joined together to overthrow a common enemy.


Global Education Outreach Program supports Polish-Jewish studies worldwide

Call for applications at POLIN Museum polin.pl/en/geoop

Global Education Outreach Program

Office of the William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation, and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. The program is made possible thanks to the support of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture.
Intensive Language Programs:
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- *BALKAN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE (BLI) Combining highly-individualized academic programming with overseas immersion, BLI enables students to make rapid gains in language proficiency and cultural knowledge while living and studying in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, or Serbia.
- *EURASIAN REGIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM (ERLP) Providing high-quality language instruction, specially-designed cultural programs, and expert logistical support, ERLP offers participants the opportunity to study one of 16 less commonly taught languages in 9 Eurasian countries.

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- PEACE & SECURITY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS Discover the diverse cultures and complex politics that shape the region, while spending five weeks in Tbilisi, Georgia. Russian, Georgian, Chechen, and Azeri language instruction are offered at all levels.

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- OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL & INTERCULTURAL TRAINING (OPT) PROGRAM Spend 6 weeks interning in such fields as democracy-building and human rights, business, STEM, economics, public health, or ecology in one of 17 countries across Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

For over 40 years, American Councils has conducted comprehensive study abroad programs in the Balkans, the Baltics, Eurasia, and Russia. From intensive language and cultural immersion to conflict resolution and public diplomacy, American Councils has a program to advance your education and career. Academic credit is offered for all programs! Applications for Spring 2019 programs are due October 15th.

2018 ASEEES DISSERTATION GRANT RECIPIENTS
Ala Creciun, History, University of Maryland, College Park, “Refashioning the Russian Monarchy: The Press, Nationalism, and Political Legitimacy in Alexander III’s Russia”
Giulia Dossi, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, “Sideshows: Medical and Literary Grotesques in Late Imperial Russia”

Hilary Lynd, History, University of California, Berkeley, “The Soviet Union is for South Africans a Big Crystal Ball: The National Question and the Cold War’s End”
Ashley Morse, Slavic Languages & Literatures, Harvard University, “Miracle, Mystery, Authority: The Rise of Governmentality in Early Modern Russia”

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*Funding for select American Councils Study Abroad programs is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, and the U.S. Department of State’s Title VIII program. More information on financial aid at: www.acstudyabroad.org/financialaid

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Polina Vlasenko, Anthropology, Indiana University Bloomington, “Exploring The Political Economy of Transnational Ova Flows: Perspectives of the Ukrainian Ova Donors”

GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS FOR 2018 ACTR ESSAY CONTEST

Winners wrote a short essay based on the topic: “My city / Moi roya”

Category A
David Ehmcke, Columbia University
Alexander Schwennick, Harvard University
Olivia Blanchard, Harvard University
Julia Braulick, Carleton College
Christopher Belnap, Brigham Young University
Hope Ovcharenko, Portland State University

Category B
Balázs Dragovich, Harvard University
Anastasia Akopova, Columbia University
Aleksandra Milcheva, Harvard University
Thu Nga Duong, Dickinson College

Category C
Dorothy Madubuko, Columbia University
Valerya Timoshenko, Rutgers University
Irena Lazareva, Carnegie Mellon University
Sheri Kelminicherko, Defense Language Institute, CE, DTRA
Nikita Tofimov, Defense Language Institute, CE, DTRA

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The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) is pleased to announce the 2018 ACLS Fellows. For this competition, ACLS increased the number of awards to 78—the greatest number in the history of the program. The expansion of the program allows ACLS to support fellows who are even more broadly representative of the variety of humanistic scholarship across all fields of study, and who reflect a diverse and inclusive ideal of academic excellence.

Adriana Nadia Helbig (Music, University of Pittsburgh): “Romanic Music and Development Aid in Post-Soviet Ukraine.”

Dassia Posner (Theatre and Film, History of the mysterious Tunguska explosion of 1908 that happened over a desolate region of Siberia and the efforts by amateurs, scientists, and even science fiction fans. Nyirady will use research surrounding the event and the contested explanations to illuminate various aspects of Soviet science during the Cold War.

ASEEES awarded 2018 MAG Convention Travel Grants to Amber Aulen, University of Toronto; Katrina Jarosz, International University of Logistics & Transport (Poland); Natalia Mitsuiky, Smolensk State Medical University; Marianna Novosolova, Technische Universität Dresden; Jesse O’Dell, UCLA; and Olha Tytarenko, University of Nebraska—Lincoln.

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) and a consortium of Minnesota universities hosted the fifth annual interdisciplinary Student Research Symposium on February 24, 2018, in connection with the exhibition “Russian Sacred Art: Connecting Heaven and Earth.” The symposium organizing committee included Carolyn Ayers, Julia Chadaga, Nadya Clayton, Erich Lippman, Matt Miller, Roslye Ultan, and Masha Zavalova, TMORA Curator.

Martin Neho announced that Czechoslovak Táiks, a project that was created in 2016 with support from the Dowken Endowment Fund. Neho’s endeavor preserves the life stories of Czechs from around the world and are designed to be an introduction to a lesson in life, especially for future generations.

Kenneth Nyiady was appointed Head of the European Reading Room at the Library of Congress. Nyiady has served as the recommending officer for Hungarian and related languages in Russia, e.g., Komi, and assists with Russian-language acquisitions. He has mentored numerous awards at the Library, including for his work on a team testing the Voyager Integrated Library System, for chairing working groups on Web archiving, and as the European Division’s Webmaster.

Cassio de Oliveira, Assistant Professor of Russian at Portland State University, was awarded a NEH Summer Stipend to write and conduct archival research for his book manuscript “Writing Rogues: Collective and Individual Identity-Formation in the Soviet Picaresque, 1921-1938.”

CEU Professor Andrea Pető was awarded the 2018 All European Academies Claude de Stael Prize for Cultural Values to honor her wide-ranging scholarly work on gender studies and European contemporary history. The Madame de Stael Prize Jury considered her research an exceptional contribution to shed light on Europe’s gendered memory of the Second World War, the Holocaust and political extremism. Pető is the fifth scholar and the first Hungarian to be awarded the Prize, at the initiative of ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, with the co-sponsorship of the Italian foundation Compagnia di San Paolo. The €20,000 Prize was awarded at the Annual General Assembly at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia on May 16, 2018, and was presented by the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel.

Ball State University awarded Sergei Zhuk a sabbatical leave to start his new research project during 2018-19 academic year. This new book project is Soviet Meddling in American Politics during the Cold War after Stalin, 1958-1991. At the same time, this project will examine the connections between knowledge production about America in the USSR and ideological struggle in diplomacy of Soviet-American relations, and the relations between “cultural” diplomacy and covert anti-American operations by the Soviet government during the Cold War after Stalin. Zhuk will analyze the role of main actors of Soviet meddling in US politics such as Soviet diplomats, guest scholars, journalists, and intelligence officers.

Natalie Mitsuiky, Smolensk State Medical University; Marianna Novosolova, Technische Universität Dresden; Jesse O’Dell, UCLA; and Olha Tytarenko, University of Nebraska—Lincoln.

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New from Slavica Publishers


The revolutions of 1917 brought catastrophe upon catastrophe: famine, economic collapse and, in 1918–20, flight from the bell of starving cities. Political struggles became civil war. Terrible anticomunist pogroms occurred. The multiple crises engendered epiphanies which ravaged malnourished bodies. On top of the war dead some ten millions died in the Civil War, mainly from disease. The 34 contributions to books 3 and 4 of RGW’s Home Front volume shine a piercing light on these events. From broad accounts of the demographic consequences to detailed studies of particular issues, these chapters take us to the cutting edge of contemporary scholarship.


Of all the books by American eyewitnesses of the Russian Revolution, John Reed’s Ten Days That Shook the World was and still is the best known. His enthusiastic account focuses on the 10 key days of the revolution, bringing to life the sights, sounds, and central figures. Reed, officially a journalist, shed his objectivity and supported the Bolshevik cause, and this book was the focus in which he made his case. In the end, this book has survived, and even thrived, as a primary source on the revolution, though Reed died in 1920.

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


Voted Book of the Year by the Czech Republic’s Magazín Literatury when published in Czech translation in 2004, So Far So Good: The Malinov 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 Ciril Malin and Milan Paumier, whose daring exploits of anti-Communist resistance and flight through the Iron Curtain to West Berlin set off the Tschechienfig, a massive manhunt by 27,000 East German police and Red Army regulars.

Three String Books


“Some texts 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 20th century 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.”

Three String Books
Lyudmila Austin
History, Michigan State University
“Migration, Nation and Selfhood in the Northern Caucasus since the 1970s”

Austin’s research explores the migration of the Russian-speaking population since the late-Soviet period, which concentrates on a case-study of migration to the Northern Caucasus. She focuses on the heterogeneous, complicated circumstances relevant to this migration, which included not only the fraught “return” of millions of ethnic Russians to their titular nation, but also the movement of other displaced people to Russia. By focusing on the Northern Caucasus, she aims to break down the barriers between the disciplines erected by “bourgeois”, anti-materialist scholarship and to reconstruct humanity’s knowledge in a new, distinctly Soviet way. The precise interpretations of this task shifted from edition to edition, and at times the project took on a sharply nationalist tone. The vicissitudes of the encyclopedia project reflect the vicissitudes of the Soviet state’s changing attitudes towards and views on the usage of knowledge and culture.

Michael Coates
History, University of California, Berkeley

Coates’ project is a history of the writing of the three editions of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia. The Great Soviet Encyclopedia was intended to be a revolutionary encyclopedia of a new type, which would transform the way its readers viewed the world. It was to be the tool that would lay the groundwork for the development of an entirely new system of knowledge rooted in the Marxist principles of dialectical materialism. It was to break down the barriers between the disciplines erected by “bourgeois”, anti-materialist scholarship and to reconstruct humanity’s knowledge in a new, distinctly Soviet way. The precise interpretations of this task shifted from edition to edition, and at times the project took on a sharply nationalist tone. The vicissitudes of the encyclopedia project reflect the vicissitudes of the Soviet state’s changing attitudes towards and views on the usage of knowledge and culture.

Rebecca Hastings
History, University of Oregon
“The Oil Industry and Social Development in Azerbaijan, 1860-2015”

Hastings’ dissertation explores the history of community-formation around the oil industry of Baku, Azerbaijan, one of the oldest industrial centers of the former Russian Empire and Soviet Union. In her work, she elucidates the connections between state imperatives for capital and modernization, the movement and conglomeration of industrial personnel, and the effect of both forces on the industrial communities and individual residents of Baku, developing a comparative illustration of change and continuity within the industrial community across several fairly drastic administrative changes, including the usual chronological break of the 1917 Russian revolutions. The development of the Baku oil industry is central to Azerbaijan’s history, and important to Russian and Soviet history, but is also illustrative of the metamorphosis of local communities prompted by modern industrial progress.

Andrei Tcacenco
History, University of California, Santa Cruz
“The Culture of Complaint: Morality and Intimacy in the USSR, 1953-Present”

Tcacenco’s research looks at Soviet republics outside the Russian Federation such as the Ukrainian and Moldavian SSSRs, and takes a more localized approach to understanding the state’s campaigns to produce a moral Soviet citizen during the Postwar period of Soviet history. He looks at how interactions between Soviet citizens in the periphery and Central Party organs resulted in a dynamic, negotiated understanding of socialist morality and concepts of the New Socialist Person in new discursive spaces of home entertainment, especially television and radio. Soviet citizens utilized mass media to spark debates about the meaning of Soviet identity, nationalism and morality, and sometimes to express outright hostility toward the Soviet state.

The CTDRF Program is sponsored by the KAT Charitable Foundation, which we thank for its generous support.
University of Virginia Press, for

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PRESS, for

Iva Glišić (University of Western Australia), The Futurist Files: Avant-Garde, Politics and Ideology in Russia, 1905–1930

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS, for

R. Chris Davis (Lone Star College), Hungarian Religion, Romanian Blood: A Minority’s Struggle for National Belonging

ASEEES is accepting applications for dedicated funds for subvention of books by first-time authors who have secured a publishing contract. Eligibility and application guidelines for publishers can be found here.

FELLOWSHIPS WITH AMERICAN COUNCILS

FULBRIGHT-HAYS GROUP PROJECTS ABROAD

Provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad fellowships are available to advanced-level students of Russian and Perisan language who plan to participate in the American Councils Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program in Moscow or the Eurasian Regional Language Program in Dushanbe. Applications due October 15. More information at: www.acstudyabroad.org/fulbright-hays

TITLE VIII FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED OVERSEAS LANGUAGE STUDY

Partial funding to U.S. teachers, graduate students, and scholars who are participating in American Councils summer, semester, and academic year language programs in Russia, Eurasia, and the Balkans. Applications due October 15. More information at: www.acstudyabroad.org/title-viii

TITLE VIII RESEARCH PROGRAM

Full support for research in policy-relevant fields in Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe. Open to U.S. graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty. Applications due October 1. More information at: researchfellowships.americancouncils.org/researchfellow

TITLE VIII COMBINED RESEARCH & LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

Includes equivalent support to the Title VIII Research Scholar Program with the addition of language training. Open to U.S. graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty. Applications due October 1. More information at: researchfellowships.americancouncils.org/crlt
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER NEWS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

With funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Russian Studies Workshop at Indiana University will host a two-day Graduate Methods Training Workshop for U.S.-based pre-dissertation PhD students in the social sciences with a focus on Russia. The workshop is September 14-15, 2018 in Bloomington, Indiana.

Carrying out research in Russia, be it quantitative or qualitative, has particular challenges—navigating the complex archival and library systems, conducting personal interviews, collecting survey data, and keeping data secure—that can make it difficult for graduate students to make efficient and effective use of their time while in country. The “Graduate Methods Training Workshop: Focus on Russia” at IU this September 14-15, 2018 will enable pre-dissertation PhD students (students who have not yet conducted their dissertation research) in the social sciences to engage in training and dialogue with experts from IU and elsewhere with a focus on particular challenges of research in Russia. We define social sciences to include anthropology, communications/media studies, economics, geography, history, law, political science, religious studies, sociology, STS, and others.

The workshop will include opportunities for participants to present their proposed research in a Lightning Round session; consult with faculty experts; and choose from workshops, which will cover: Qualitative Methods, including interviews; Survey Methods; Navigating Russia’s Library System and Archives from the U.S. and in Russia; Datasets and Digital Methods; and Media and Discourse Analysis.

The larger goals of the workshop are to build a community of pre-dissertation PhD students in the social sciences studying Russia, to promote networking and professionalization opportunities for emerging scholars with prominent faculty in the social sciences, and to expose emerging scholars to innovative methodological approaches in the social sciences.

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER

George F. Kennan Fellows will be based at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in DC, as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials. While conducting research, the George F. Kennan Fellows are expected to actively participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements at the Wilson Center as well as potentially outside of DC, and attending meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowships, the grantees become alumni, for whom Kennan will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement. There are no citizenship requirements for this grant.

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

Kennan Fellowship Teams will produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications; present work at DC, Russia, and/or Ukraine events; Conduct meetings; and engage with policymakers in DC. The next submission deadline is September 1.

Applicants must submit a completed application: https://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/george-f-kennan-fellowship.

The next competition is for Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants, which allow U.S. citizens whose policy-relevant research in the social sciences or humanities focused on the countries of Eurasia, to spend up to one month using the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area, while in residence at the Kennan Institute. The deadline for these grants is September 15, 2018.

Please see the website for details: https://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/kenann-institute-short-term-grant.

The Kennan Institute welcomes:

Title VIII Research Scholars

Courtney Doucette, PhD Candidate, Rutgers University, “Perestroika: The Last Attempt to Create a New Soviet Person, 1985-1991”

Title VIII Short Term Scholars

Tricia Starks, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas, “Save the Men: Public Response to the Soviet Demographic Crisis”

Monica Steinberg, Doherty Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Southern California, “Humor and Subtle Activism in Contemporary Azerbaijani Art”

Lisa Kirschbaum, Professor, West Chester University, “Soviet Visitors and Russian American Immigrants: Cultural Exchanges in the 1930s”

Title VIII Summer Research Scholars

James Billington Fellows

Sergey Parkhomenko, Journalist, “Echo of Moscow” Radio, “Creation of an Independent Media Platform in Russia”

PUSHKIN HOUSE

Alexis Peri, assistant professor of history at Boston University, has won the sixth annual Pushkin House Russian Book Prize for her work The War Within: Days From the Siege of Kerchad. Her book, published by Harvard University Press, was selected by a panel of five distinguished judges from a shortlist of six strong, varied contenders covering history, biography, international relations and graphic reportage.

The prize showcases, promotes and encourages the best accessible non-fiction writing in English about Russia and the Russian-speaking world. This year’s shortlist included works translated from Russian and French. The judges also singled out for commendation Other Russians, by Victoria Lomasko and translated by Thomas Campbell, as the best book in translation.

The 2018 shortlisted titles are:

• Armageddon and Paranoia: The Nuclear Confrontation, Rodric Braithwaite (Profile Books).
• Stalin’s Meteorologist: One Man’s Untold Story of Love, Life, and Death, Oliver Rolin. (Penguin) translated from the French by Ros Schwartz.
• Gorbachev: His Life and Times, William Taubman. (Simon & Schuster)

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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ohio State University to host From Pattern to Painting: The Religious Iconography of Pimen Sofronov from May 31- September 16, 2018.

“From Pattern to Painting” unveils the process of creating a religious icon through the drawings of painter Pimen M. Sofronov (1898-1973). Sofronov, an Orthodox Christian icon painter born in the Russian Empire in present-day Estonia, is the most influential iconographer of the Russian emigration.

In the 1930s and 1940s, he established schools of iconography in Riga, Paris, and Belgrade, lectured in Belgium and Prague, and produced works for King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Pope Pius XI in Rome. After World War II, Sofronov was invited to America by Holy Trinity Monastery to teach iconography.

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In the 1950s–1960s, he created icons and books that inspired his work. Photographs of his work, exhibit catalogs, samples of his students’ work, and correspondence complement the original drawings and provide context for this working iconographer’s life.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Pitt’s REES Awarded NEH Humanities Connections Implementation Grant for Innovative Interdisciplinary Courses on Water in Central Asia

The University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Asian Studies Center (ASC) were recently awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to strengthen interdisciplinary connections across the humanities, social sciences, business and engineering programs. Led by REES Director Nancy Condee and Director of the World History Center Ruth Mostern, and Project GO and Project GO

 IBRO in Russia

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In addition to articles and news columns, NewsNet also features a limited number of advertisements from various organizations presenting scholarly publications, products, services, or opportunities of interest to those in the Russian, Eurasian, and Central European fields. Please contact newsnet@pitt.edu for rates, specs and production schedule.

Dan Healey is a Professor of Modern Russian History at the University of Oxford.

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

I first travelled to the USSR in March 1974, as a high-school student in a History group from small-town Ontario. Pierre Trudeau was prime minister, social democracy was in the air, and Canada was at ease in its relations with Communist countries. I taught myself Cyrillic and a few words of Russian and became fascinated with the language. It led me to a BA in Russian Language and Literature at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1981. I then had an 8-year career in the student travel industry, and I escorted tour groups to the USSR during the Gorbachev years. The changes I saw propelled me back to academic study of Russia.

How have your interests changed since then?

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What is your current research/work project?

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What do you value about your ASEEES membership?

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Besides your professional work, what other interests and/or hobbies do you enjoy?

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SPOTLIGHT: DAN HEALEY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Dan Healey is a Professor of Modern Russian History at the University of Oxford.

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