

# NewsNet

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

### Area Studies and the "False Song of Globalism" **Padraic Kenney, Indiana University**

The following Presidential Address was given on November 19, 2016 at the 48th Annual ASEEES Convention.

This may be the most uncertain, fragile moment in the history of our profession. Now, any scholar should be wary of such categorical statements. After all, the study of Eurasia, Russia, and Eastern Europe has been out of favor in the United States before, and certainly funding and other forms of support have often been hard to come by. But we now face the prospect of the United States turning away from the world, instead embracing an America First isolationism that, for some, recalls the tenor of the 1920s. We can wonder whether there will still be federal support for study of our part of the world, and whether languages and study abroad will still attract students. We also wonder whether American isolationism will leave countries in the region isolated themselves, left vulnerable to attacks from abroad and to the impact of the next global recession.

And yet let's examine that uncertainty and not accept certain doom. We can't really tell where our profession, and the search for knowledge we hold dear, is headed. In April, Donald Trump delivered an address on foreign policy in which he promised that America would no longer "surrender ... to the false song of globalism." 1 As with so many of his statements over the last year, we don't know what this means. The focus of his remarks was on international trade and military agreements, not on knowledge of the world itself. But whether "globalism" means merely the structures and connectors of globalization, or places under suspicion any interest in what happens in the rest of the world, the current moment, at once global and anti-global, threatens our scholarly community. It also challenges us to bring the area into the global, and not necessarily in the ways we have pursued for the last two decades.

Paradoxically, this new turning away from the world is anchored in an assertion that the rest of the world must finally be subject to common-sense American scrutiny. In this line of thinking, we have to examine the books to determine what other countries gain in international trade agreements; what other countries can do to prevent the movement of their citizens; and whether countries could do more to pay for their own defense. Now, I suppose we could raise our hands and say, "Scrutiny? I am professionally trained to do just that! Let me study regional armies and trade pacts for you." But this will of course be a faux scrutiny, obsessed with the ways that the world does or does not pay sufficient respect to America. Genuine knowledge of the languages, histories, cultures of the countries involved is not necessary to draw up such balance sheets.

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We are in one perverse way fortunate: our region is also once again at the center of attention. In the last twenty years, as the stirring stories of Communism's toppling faded from popular view, a diverse hodgepodge of narrative lines replaced the unitary know-your-enemy plotline, and Eastern Europe/Russia/Eurasia became a normal part of the assemblage of areas studied on American campuses. Now, amid the myriad tensions of our era, we have a complex story to tell, as exemplified by the remarks at this Annual convention's plenary discussion on "Russia's New Role in the Middle East." However, a one-dimensional interest does not necessarily bring beneficial effects on scholarship. We may see antipathy to knowledge of the world become acceptable, making the funding struggles of the last decade seem a golden age. We still have a President who went to school in Indonesia; the fact that the new First Lady was born in Slovenia does not mean that study of that country or any of its neighbors will gain new recognition.

But enough complaining. Our problems do not differ in their essence from those of other area studies fields, or from those of the liberal arts in general, but they are heightened in a moment that is, again, both globalized and quite antiglobal. What do we offer, and how do we make that offer visible? How, in this crucial moment of a transition that may be as much cultural as it is political, do we present what we do and make the case for it? Though one could approach the question of the

future of area studies as a problem of funding, or of the way that scholars present their work, I'd like to think here about the way we conceptualize the world. Scholars in the ASEES community have always relied upon two things: first, a sense that our part of the world is of vital interest; second, commitment to the value of understanding region from a multidisciplinary perspective. Inhabiting one perspective, we also understand how we might look beyond what our own disciplines have taught us.

Let's get back to first principles. I understand area studies not just as a means of bringing together scholars from various disciplines united by a common subject area, though we do that, of course. Area studies, at its heart, is a holistic approach to the study of a place; it is born in most of us as undergraduates, where we encounter, at more or less the same time, the literature, the film, the art, the history, and the current politics of a place. Then we go

there, and experience it through all of these ways. I'm sure most of us have stories of that path we have individually taken. In my case, my work is still in some way infused by the sheer awe and almost giddy delight I felt when I first entered the Mayakovsky Museum in Moscow, more than thirty years ago. So too my first encounters with youth opposition movements in Poland a few years later shaped the way I thought about agency and resistance in history long before I began writing about 1989.

If I were to use this opportunity to put up a slide of Vladimir Putin's impressive physique—a cliché for which PowerPoint was invented, I think—we here would have no difficulty viewing it through a multi-disciplinary lens. We would think about how this image is inseparable from dominant and alternative cultural discourses in Russia, while constituting a canny intervention in Russian politics that builds upon and refers to Russian history. We endeavor to instill in our students the same 360-degree

view. If we look at the area studies certificates and degrees offered by our institutional members, we find everywhere the same method: we require that our undergraduates who wish to study "Russia" or "Eastern Europe" or "Eurasia" take courses in literature, politics, and history. This distribution scheme ensures that the literature student takes some political science, for example, or that the anthropologist be acquainted with history. Why do we engage in what sometimes may seem a dry exercise in ensuring "distribution"? Only when

devising programs for students do we make evident what otherwise we take for granted: that their understanding of one aspect of the region or country will be enhanced by understanding another aspect. The literature is not just recreational, the history is not just background, the anthropology is not just some customs, the politics is not just current events. It's a position that is difficult to maintain within one classroom, to be sure: I am sure I am not the only historian who, assigning a favorite novel or screening a film, realized I did not have the tools to talk about them as anything beyond artifacts that illustrated a historical theme.

We need to identify and articulate this unique contribution of area studies. As the humanities and social sciences have come under pressure in this country and in others, administrators' or funders' call for "policy-relevant" research threatens to divide and conquer this community



of scholars. Those whose work already appears to have policy relevance have the burden of making gestures toward the work of their less-favored colleagues; the latter try to find ways to align their research and teaching with agendas that promise continued resources. But this approach, as necessary as it may seem, does not make sense in the long run, because it eviscerates the values that inspired us and inspire many of our students. Area studies, in its commitment to diversity of approach and of interest, embodies the liberal arts tradition.

To return to the question I have raised: how do we put forward a regional approach in an era at once global and anti-global? How does the holistic knowledge of one world region allow us to engage in conversations that in recent years have turned, to quote a favorite phrase of university administrators, toward "our Increasingly Globalized World"? Equally important, how do we grapple with the potential threat to the search for knowledge embodied in anti-global politics? At this point, I think we'd benefit by grounding the problem in place and time. Given the ongoing observation of the quarter-century since the Soviet coup and the USSR's disappearance, the end of Communism can be a starting point, so I'd like to use this most global of dates in our field (matched only by that date we'll be remembering in Chicago next November) to think about how we connect our work to the world.

Besides being a rollicking great and photogenic story, the democratic revolutions across Eastern Europe in 1989 naturally invited us to engage with the entire world. Indeed, I would argue that they gave birth to new scholarly perspectives because they appeared to be as global as the era that followed. Just a few months before the year began, Augusto Pinochet unexpectedly lost a referendum in Chile and a dictatorship of great symbolic importance began to crumble quickly. Just a few weeks after Václav Havel welcomed in the New Year as Czechoslovakia's president, Nelson Mandela left prison and South Africa began to move decisively away from Apartheid.

How could we address the diverse paths revolution took across four continents in that year or so? For years, I pursued a transnational answer to this puzzle of a global rainbow, examining the movement of people, ideas, and objects across borders. Transnational studies, hindsight tells me, are an approach for exuberant times, a celebration of human perseverance and ingenuity in confounding that which constricts, and appropriately inspired by an age of irrepressible revolution. There was plenty of the transnational in Eastern Europe around 1989: the

Hungarian students of Fidesz (including Viktor Orbán) who visited Poland to learn from their more radical counterparts; couriers carrying Czech *samizdat* across the mountains from Poland; British pacifists traveling to Budapest in search of dialogue; people everywhere listening to Radio Free Europe and other news sources. Some contacts were at such micro-levels that their import is nearly impossible to tease out. Interviewing a Danube Circle leader in Budapest in 1998, I was startled when his colleague exclaimed: "I know you – you were at my wedding." I hadn't been, but I knew which Polish-speaking bearded Irish-American he meant, and a slender thread from the Danube Circle to Solidarity peeked out from the mist.<sup>3</sup>

When I began writing about the events of those years elsewhere in the world, I doggedly unearthed more such connections. A delegation of Poles visited South Africa in 1990 or thereabouts, and then the South Africans visited Poland. Chinese students were told by the astronomer-dissident Fang Lizhi to read Havel. And Orange Alternative-like memes can be spotted in just about any revolution; it's a wonder the Poles did not copyright their happenings.

But so what? Can these connections really bear the weight of a global story? Is there a zeitgeist, a worldwide "dance of democracy" that we can narrate by following these connections? The answer is no. The transnational perspective takes us across some borders but not all, and not all the time. It diverts attention from the equally essential differences between the cases in contact. And by focusing our attention precisely on borders and on those who can cross them, it can miss other things of equal importance. It provides a grammar that is not always up to the task.

A profound challenge to anyone who would synthesize transnational connections into a global narrative comes from right in the middle of that year. I have in mind, of course, the fourth of June, 1989. While Poles voted out the Polish United Workers' Party and supported Solidarity candidates, and the Communists accepted defeat, the regime in China engineered a horrific massacre of protesters on Beijing's Tiananmen Square. What is the relationship between a peaceful election in one country and a crackdown in another, other than that both regimes professed allegiance to ideas derived in some way from Marx? There is no transnational story to tell; the dance of democracy runs out of music at this point. But area studies, by contrast, does have much more to say. To understand comparable protests emerging in similar

circumstances, produced not only by common structural transformations but by the thinking and experiences of particular activists embedded in particular cultures, and to trace them forward in time, we need the sensitivity of the scholar immersed deeply in place.

If the transnational harmonizes too closely with a globalizing agenda, what I call "global conversations" are a way to link to distant parts of the world, to overcome the barriers of exceptionalism. We know how to inhabit a world fully, alert to the ways in which different disciplinary perspectives must intersect. The area studies scholar cannot follow all the paths available, but is aware that they exist. This knowledge is a strong foundation on which to engage less familiar parts of the world. The transnational journey, if it no longer fits the times, is a prelude to bringing our scholarly tools to the understanding of the dynamics of other cultures, societies, and political institutions. Thus, to make sense of a "Global 1989"—or a "Global 1968", for those of you scenting a tasty semicentennial on the way—the holistic approach of area studies is essential.

Over the ten years that I have been doing research in South Africa and Ireland, I have not become an expert in either field. I have learned enough to know how hard it would be to become an expert, in fact. But the method of global engagement is straightforward: driven by questions rather than geography, the area studies expert works from thematic authority and rejects (until proven otherwise) ideas of exceptionalism. Communist Poland begins to look more expected the more one learns about other societies. I know this experience is shared by colleagues. Friday's plenary on authority in area studies featured a number of scholars who have moved bravely across borders to explore unfamiliar places. Strikingly, two panelists described nation-bounded research as imprisoning to the scholars and/or their subjects. Throwing off these shackles requires sacrificing a bit of scholarly authority, but the payoff is freedom to roam in new terrain.

There is no better example of the potential of and need for area scholars' voices than the global moment we are in right now. After the October 2015 Polish election brought to power a populist government that bases its appeal in part on the rejection of liberal post-communist elites—including insinuations that the previous government was a criminal enterprise and may even have indulged in murder—and on rejection of the international order, it certainly looked as if post-communist democracies as such were far more fragile than we had assumed. Now that the United States has also elected a populist government that bases its appeal in part

on the rejection of liberal elites and of the international order—and which also attempts to criminalize its political opponents—that explanation won't suffice. Our region is unfortunately not unique; this does, though, mean that we can hold our own in and build global conversations.

The educated public and our students need to hear from experts who can articulate how political choices and decisions are shaped by history and by culture; how culture bears the imprint of politics; and how history can serve as a way of interpreting our own experiences. We need to be able to talk about authoritarianism and the threat to democracy and the liberal order, but also to know about the limits of drawing analogies and about when the search for connecting threads and precedents is a dead-end task.4 We need, in other words, the expertise of the area studies scholar. The dominant rhetorical move today is surely hyperbole. The unique contribution of area studies, in this moment, is to work against hyperbole by thinking comparatively across space and time, drawing upon a broad range of perspectives to help us figure out when extreme claims are warranted, and what we must look for. Here at ASEEES, of course, we have the opportunity for a more basic kind of global conversation, among colleagues from around the world with whom we share interests. As all of us are searching for ways to make sense of what seems like systemic change in the countries we live in and the countries we study, I wish only for the conversations, within our individual scholarship, with publics and students, and with our colleagues at ASEEES and elsewhere, to continue and grow.

Padraic Kenney is Professor of History and Professor and Chair of Department of International Studies at Indiana University and was President of ASEEES in 2016.

#### (Endnotes)

- 1 Speech delivered April 27, 2016. https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/donald-j.-trump-foreign-policy-speech.
- 2 I'd like to acknowledge the value of the shift that Stephen Hanson called for in his ASEEES presidential address just two years ago. Stephen E. Hanson, "In Defense of Regional Studies in a Globalized World: Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Twenty-Five Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall," NewsNet 55, no. 1 (January 2015): 1-5. Lacking clear associations, "area" is indeed a vague word. Hanson called for renewed commitment to "regional studies," and I think this term does give us more pedagogical power. The two terms will have to coexist for a while yet, but if part of scholarship is speaking so others can understand, we'll find that "region" reaches farther.
- 3 A number of people have tried to guess to whom I refer here; my doppelganger has never been a member of ASEEES, however.
- 4 See Valerie Bunce, "Should Transitologists be Grounded?" *Slavic Review* 54, no. 1 (Spring 1995): 111-27.

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## HARVARD UKRAINIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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### 2016 Executive Director's Report Lynda Park

2016 was an exceptionally productive year for ASEEES. The programs that we launched in 2015, after a strategic planning process of 2013-2014, resulted in more benefits for our members. We also established new funding programs in 2016 to support graduate student research. Our joint summer convention with MAG in Lviv, Ukraine, was a resounding success. The annual convention in Washington, DC, was the largest in recent years. Finally, we worked diligently to advocate for support of our field.

Membership: The Association's individual membership in 2016 increased by 8% from 2015. We have **3,268** members: 641 student members (19.6%); 312 affiliate members (9.5%) and 930 international members (28.5%) from 47 countries, of which 333 members are from the 18 countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The top five countries outside the US with most members are the UK, Canada, Russia, Germany, and Poland. Our international membership continues to grow. For trends in membership over the last decade, please see the chart below. In terms of institutional membership, we have 55 members (6 new members): 19 premium members and 36 regular members.

Convention: The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, on Nov 17-20, 2016 was one the largest conventions in recent memory. We had 2536 registrants (690 international from 45 countries): 2250 members; 286 non-members; 472 students (367 members; 91 international; 41 undergraduates); 420 first-time attendees (low estimate since we did not gather this info during on-site registration). Of the 690

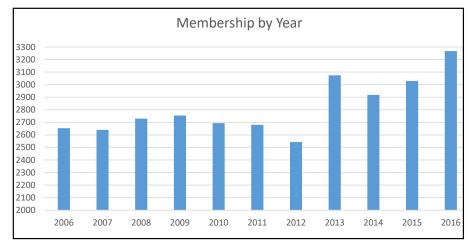
international participants, 126 were from the UK, 108 from Russia, 99 from Canada, and 64 from Germany. In total, 2685 attendees, including the exhibitors and media, participated in the convention. We had 68 exhibit booths set up by 63 companies/organizations in the Exhibit Hall and 11 sponsors at various levels. We especially thank the Cambridge University Press for its platinum sponsorship and the American Councils for International Education for the mobile app sponsorship.

The convention program included 450 panels, 159 roundtables, and 42 meetings. The Presidential Plenary on the convention theme, "On Whose Authority? How Area Studies Scholars Can Go Global, or Not," included Jan Behrends, Valerie Bunce, Choi Chatterjee, and John Connelly as speakers. A second Plenary on "Russia's New Role in the Middle East" featured Celeste Wallander, Matthew Rojansky, and Igor Zevelev. Padraic Kenney gave his presidential address on "Area Studies and the 'False Song of Globalism." In addition, the new Slavic Digital Humanities group held a pre-convention THATCamp that was well received, and we set up an informal dinearound at nearby restaurants as a new networking activity. We also used a mobile app for the first time, for which we received much positive feedback. We thank the Program Committee, especially the chair Steven Barnes (George Mason U) and associate chairs Eric Lohr (American U) and Elizabeth Papazian (U of Maryland), for their hard work on the convention.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Convention will be held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile on Nov. 9-12,

2017, with Keely Stauter-Halsted (U of Illinois-Chicago) as the Program Committee Chair. The Convention theme is "Transgressions." The Convention also coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1917 revolutions. A working group on "1917" is planning activities and exhibits in the Chicago metropolitan area around the time of the Convention. We also plan to add a new session type called "lightning rounds" for 2017.

**Convention Travel Grants**: For the 2016 Convention, we awarded 41 grants and disbursed \$22,445 in three grant categories:



21 Davis Graduate Student Travel Grants to students at 12 US institutions and 9 non-US institutions; 10 Regional Scholar Travel Grants to members from 6 countries in our region; 10 Convention Opportunity Travel Grants to members from 7 countries. For the 2017 Convention, we are working to increase the number of Regional Scholar Travel Grants that we can offer.

2016 ASEEES-MAG Summer Convention, Lviv, Ukraine:

On June 26-28, 2016, ASEEES held a joint summer convention with the International Association for the Humanities (MAG) at the Ukrainian Catholic U in Lviv, Ukraine. This was the second conference in the region for ASEEES. The convention drew 516 participants from 35 countries, including 154 from Ukraine, 52 from Russia, 15 from Belarus and 104 from the US. We provided 19 travel grants for total of \$6,147 (of which ca. \$2,000 were from external contributions). The event offered 148 sessions on diverse interdisciplinary topics. The Ukrainian Catholic U was a fantastic host with a well-organized staff (and student volunteers!) who went well beyond expectation to make the event a memorable one. A full report can be found on the ASEEES blog. We plan to organize the next summer convention for 2019.

**Slavic Review:** Starting in 2017, *Slavic Review* will be published by Cambridge U Press. We signed a seven-year

contract in March 2016. Harriet Muray, the journal editor, and Dmitry Tartakovsky, managing editor, will continue to have all editorial control and copyediting responsibilities. Regular and student members of ASEES will continue to receive *Slavic Review* as part of their membership and will have access to the complete run of the journal on the <u>Cambridge Core</u> site via the ASEES Members Site after Jan 1, 2017. JSTOR will continue to maintain the *Slavic Review* archive, but will be subject to a three-year restriction.

Fellowships & Grants: We were able to launch two dissertation research funding programs this year. In May we awarded 6 Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowships with a stipend of \$22,000 to: Dakota Irvin (UNC); Erin Hutchinson (Harvard U); Susan Grunewald (Carnegie Mellon U); Kelsey Norris (U Penn); John Romero (Arizona State U); and John Seitz (Iowa State U). All of them are currently conducting their research in Russia. We also instituted the ASEEES Dissertation grant program and awarded 11 grants (up to \$5,000) to students at 9 universities.

In the second year of the First Book Subvention program, we awarded 6 subventions to 6 publishers. So far the subventions have gone to <u>8 different publishers</u>.

### ASEES 49th Annual Convention, November 9-12, 2017 Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile www.aseees.org/convention

**Convention Theme: Transgressions** 

The 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution inspires the 2017 theme and invites us to rethink the ways in which cultural, economic, political, social, and international orders are undermined, overthrown, and recast. The theme invites consideration of transgressions broadly and comparatively. Proposals from all disciplines, historical periods, and geographic focus are welcome.

February 15: Deadline for all convention proposal submissions & meeting requests

Accepting submissions for:

- Panels
- Roundtables
- Book Discussion Roundtables (New for 2017 Use the Roundtable submission process)
- Individual Papers
- Lightning Round Presentations (New for 2017 See the call for proposal for details)

For more information on the Call for Proposals see: www.aseees.org/convention/cfp

Notification will be sent out in late April.

Investment/Development: Following extensive review of proposals from various financial advisors by the Investment Subcommittee and the Executive Committee, the Board approved a plan on June 18, 2016 to move the ASEES General Investment Fund from TIFF to Northern Trust, in part to lower the fees and to have a more customized portfolio. The TIFF account was liquidated and moved to Northern Trust on Aug. 8, 2016. As of early November, the Fund's market value is at ca. \$2,378,000. ASEEES also maintains a separate "rainy day" reserve in FDIC-insured CDs with Charles Schwab.

In terms of development, we received \$176,273 in contributions for FY 2016, most of it from the KAT Charitable Foundation for the Cohen-Tucker Fellowships. Members' contributions totaling \$13,160 for the General Investment Fund were deposited in the fund with Northern Trust.

ASEEES Commons: At the 2016 Convention, we launched the ASEEES Commons, an integrated online discussion platform along with CORE, a document repository. The ASEEES Commons is part of a pilot project run by the Modern Language Association with support from the Mellon Foundation. We will spend the next few months adding content and creating groups within the Commons. In line with the 2017 Convention theme, we have created a website for "1917"; we will be adding to this site throughout the year. Members are encouraged to check out the ASEEES Commons, to create topical groups and/or their own professional websites.

Advocacy, Title VIII and Title VI: The US State Department announced in April 2016 a new Title VIII competition with an appropriation of \$1.5 million from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget. The amount was the same as last year's appropriation, but it is less than the \$3 million that was suggested in the Congressional budget. The grantees were: the Kennan Institute, Indiana U, Arizona State U, American Councils, and U of Wisconsin. We are hopeful that another competition for 2017 will take place in the spring.

Flat funding and annual threat of cuts for Title VI/Fulbright-Hays continued in 2016. The Coalition for International Education, of which ASEEES is a member, continues to advocate for Title VI/Fulbright-Hays funding.

**Carnegie Corporation of New York:** We are gratified that our June 2015 CCNY-sponsored <u>report</u> on the state of Russian studies in the US had an impact on the launch of a new CCNY grant program, which provided \$1 million

each to fund Russian studies programs at Columbia U, Indiana U, and the U of Wisconsin. The ASEES report was cited in the program's purpose and in its press release about the grant.

**ICCEES:** Per the Board decision in November 2015, ASEES renewed payment of membership dues to the International Council for Central and East European Studies. David Patton, a Board member, is serving as the ASEES representative on the ICCEES Executive Committee. We look forward to collaborating with ICCEES, particularly to enhance our international presence.

Board Election/Incoming Members: The 2016 annual election for the Board of Directors was held from June-September, and the results were the following: Julie Cassiday (Russian, Williams College) was elected vice-president/ president-elect for 2017; Anne Lounsbery (Slavic, NYU) and Kristin Roth-Ey (History, University College London) were elected as members-at-large for 2017-2019. We sent out 3,115 ballots, and 987 voted. The other incoming Board members in 2017 are: Ted Gerber (U Wisconsin-Madison), Sociology representative; Paul Werth (UNLV), AHA representative; and Jon Giullian (U of Kansas), CLIR representative.

Governance/ASEES Staff: Continuing the efforts of the 2014 strategic plan, we will be reviewing our bylaws and the governance structure in the coming year to make sure that we are using the best practices in the non-profit sector. We will be working with consultants at The Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management in Pittsburgh.

We saw some changes to the ASEES staff this year. Margaret Manges joined us as the Convention Manager in January; Andrew Behrendt started in October as the NewsNet editor and program coordinator; and Kelly Trimble served as the 2016 Convention program coordinator.

I thank our members for their participation and commitment in making 2016 a great year for ASEEES. I especially thank the members of the ASEEES Board and committees. The Association and our scholarly community benefit enormously from their efforts. I thank the staff at our main office and the *Slavic Review* editorial office for their hard work. Finally, I thank the University of Illinois for hosting the *Slavic Review* office and the University of Pittsburgh for hosting the ASEEES main office and offer special thanks to Pitt's University Center for International Studies for its support.



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   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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### Reading Mayakovsky in São Paulo: Boris Schnaiderman and the Legacy of Russian Studies in Brazil<sup>1</sup> Cassio de Oliveira, Portland State University

A "remarkably successful effort at introducing modern Russian poetry to what must be an almost virgin audience" is how Victor Terras labeled a volume of poetry in translation, published in Brazil in 1969 and entitled *Poesia Russa Moderna*.<sup>2</sup> Despite the decades that separate the publication of Poesia Russa Moderna from the present day, that book (currently in its sixth edition) remains a significant landmark in the establishment of a community of Russian literature scholars and admirers in Brazil. This is not least because, in the midst of a right-wing military dictatorship, it introduced readers to such poets as Khlebnikov, Kruchenykh, Tsvetaeva, and Mandelstam, and revitalized the status of Mayakovsky beyond a politically tinged reading of his poetry. While credit for the translations (also praised by Roman Jakobson and Krystyna Pomorska<sup>3</sup>) went primarily to Augusto and Haroldo de Campos, brothers and founders of the Brazilian Concrete poetry movement as well as translators from other languages (e.g., from English, German, Modern French, Provençal, and Ancient Greek), the title page of the book also mentions "the revision or collaboration of Boris Schnaiderman." This somewhat awkward editorial information is a nod to the translator. scholar, and teacher (including teacher of Russian to both de Campos brothers) who almost singlehandedly founded and carried forward the field of Russian literary studies and translation in Brazil, and who passed away in May 2016 at the age of 99. This article aims to commemorate his achievements in the field while also celebrating the legacy he has left in the form of an active community of translators and scholars of Russian literature in Brazil. I will conclude with some remarks on the state of the field, in particular on current translation projects and Russian studies scholarship in Brazil.

Russian Literary Studies through the Prism of Boris Schnaiderman's Life: Born May 17, 1917 in the Ukrainian city of Uman', Boris Solomonovich Schnaiderman and his family soon relocated to Odessa, where—in an anecdote he often recounted in interviews—as a young boy, he witnessed the filming of the famous Potemkin Staircase scene from Sergei Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin* (1925). Sensing that the New Economic Policy would eventually be replaced with less business-friendly policies, Schnaiderman's father, a merchant, decided to emigrate, and so, in 1925, the family arrived in Brazil. At his family's

behest, Schnaiderman studied agronomy in Rio de Janeiro, graduating in 1940.

Brazil had gone through a period of political instability in the late 1920s, which culminated in the rise of a populist dictator, Getúlio Vargas, who rode on the wave of an incipient "Red Scare". Vargas's dictatorship was consolidated in the wake of the suppression of a Comintern-supported communist insurgency in 1935. After graduation, Schnaiderman enrolled in a preparatory course for military careers, as military service was a requirement for acquiring Brazilian citizenship at the time. In 1944, with Brazil's entry into World War II on the side of the Allies, Schnaiderman was sent to the Italian front in an artillery unit, serving in a position which, despite the hardship of the front, afforded him time to read books. His war experience would later be recounted in two volumes, one of them his only novel (a fictionalized memoir of the Italian front entitled Guerra em Surdina [Muted War], 1964), the other a collection of autobiographical essays released less than one year before his death.

Also in 1944, Schnaiderman's first translation—of Dostoevsky's Brothers Karamazov—was published under the pseudonym "Boris Solomonov." This edition can lay claim to being the first translation of the novel into Portuguese done directly from Russian (and not, as it had often happened with Russian texts, from a German, English, or—more commonly—French translation). Upon his return from Italy, however, Schnaiderman steered clear of a Russia-related career, except for sporadic translation work for the TASS news agency in the late 1940s, and a few translations published under pseudonyms. He took up an appointment at a school of agronomy run by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Brazilian heartland, where he would work until 1953. Around the mid-1950s, Schnaiderman found himself back in São Paulo: he started frequenting a circle of intellectuals that gathered around the German émigré Anatol Rosenfeld, with weekly discussions of philosophy, aesthetics, literature, and psychoanalysis. Like Rosenfeld, who had begun publishing a regular column on German literature in the literary supplement to O Estado de São Paulo, in 1956 Schnaiderman published the first of more than 350 newspaper columns on Russian literature: it was the height of the Khrushchev Thaw, and the time when cultural ties between the Soviet Union and Latin America were at their closest.4 Schnaiderman's

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first translation under his own name (of Chekhov short stories) came out in 1959, and, in 1960, he began to teach Russian at the University of São Paulo. Two years later, he would become the first faculty member in the newly formed Russian program, which would eventually add a graduate program in Russian literature and culture—the only of its kind in Latin America.

By 1964, the popular goodwill toward the Soviet Union in Brazil began to sour when a right-wing military coup took place, reinforced in 1968 with a decree that consolidated the stranglehold of the military and severely curtailed civil rights. Schnaiderman's newspaper columns started coming out less frequently; he had a close call with the secret police when, one evening in 1969, he was detained for a few hours after they burst into his classroom. The notoriously soft-spoken professor reportedly greeted the intruders with a single question: "We are here in the classroom with nothing but chalk and an eraser, and you interrupt the class armed with machine guns?"5 Despite that brush with the law, Schnaiderman continued to publish, teach, and engage with scholars abroad and in Brazil. In 1968, for instance, he organized Roman Jakobson's lecture series in Brazil; the partnership with the de Campos Brothers yielded Poesia Moderna Russa as well as a volume entirely dedicated to the poetry of Mayakovsky, later followed by a translation of *The Bedbug* in collaboration with theater director Luís Antonio Martinez Corrêa.

Schnaiderman never restricted himself to translation alone, whether as an activity or as a topic for analysis (the latter most notably in the 2011 volume Tradução: Ato Desmedido [Translation: An Unmeasurable Deed]): His multiple volumes of essays range from topics such as Italo-Russian-Brazilian cultural links, through post-Soviet Russian culture, to exegeses of the stalwarts of Russian literature and philology: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Mayakovsky, and also Bakhtin, Propp, Shklovsky, and Lotman. Schnaiderman's efforts to popularize Russian literature in Brazil were recognized with multiple awards, including the Jabuti Prize (the most prestigious award in Brazilian book publishing) in the categories of essays (1983) and translation (2000), an award for the corpus of his translation work from the Brazilian Academy of Letters (2003), and the Medal of Pushkin from the Russian Federation (2007). He retired from the University of São Paulo in 1979, and became Professor Emeritus of Russian in 2001. His second book-length work on the Italian Front (Caderno Italiano, or Italian Notebook) was published in 2015. He passed away on May 18, 2016.6

Current Activities: Schnaiderman devotes a chapter of his volume of essays Projeções: Rússia/Brasil/Itália (1977) to "the isolation in which a good part of South American intellectuals live, their backwardness in contacts with the world."7 "Barreiras do Obscurantismo" ("Barriers of Obscurantism"), the essay, originally published in 1963, is a review of two books: an anthology of Russian poetry published in Ecuador and a commentary on "contemporary Russia" written by an Argentinean academic. Schnaiderman criticizes the provincialism, the uninformed opinions, and the amateurism of these two volumes, produced by authors and editors who either did not have access to or interest in the by-then recent scholarship on their topics. It is fair to say that, as far as possible, these "barriers of obscurantism" have been torn down over the past decades in Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America. While much of this phenomenon is due to Schnaiderman's own efforts to introduce intellectual movements such as Russian Formalism and the Tartu School to a Brazilian audience, the increasing professionalization of Russian literary studies in Brazil also resulted from the collapse of Communism, which helped to depoliticize or de-ideologize much of the scholarship on Russia and the Soviet Union.8

**Translations:** Given Schnaiderman's legacy translator and the acute dearth of reliable translations from Russian into Brazilian Portuguese, it is natural that his most visible manifestations in the field would occur in the realm of translation. In the early 2000s, Brazil's largest publishers put forth a wave of translations, beginning with Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment by Paulo Bezerra (2001).9 A veritable Russian literary revival ensued, with many translations issued in the series "Nova Antologia do Conto Russo," dedicated to works by Central and Eastern European authors. Some titles were translations by Schnaiderman, who painstakingly revised and refined his previous work. Yet many were also by young translators, and, while the focus was still on the classics (Dostoevsky figures massively among then), other titles had either an encyclopedic scope or were meant to introduce a Brazilian readership to authors heretofore unknown to them. Since the classics have often already been translated in standalone editions, the organizers of this anthology saw fit to include lesser-known works, such as Pushkin's A Journey to Arzrum and Dostoevsky's "Polzunkov." Among lesserknown authors in Brazil, two important landmarks have been the publication of Varlam Shalamov's Kolyma Tales (Editora 34, in six volumes, 2015-) and a new translation of Babel's Red Cavalry (2015), published by the nowdefunct Cosac & Naïfy. A planned series of translations

of novels and other works from the time of the Revolution promises to further fill the void in early Soviet literature in Brazil.

The culture magazine *Piauí* also published an excerpt from a recent translation of the Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich's *Voices from Chernobyl* (Companhia das Letras, 2016). Notably, on the occasion of Schnaiderman's passing, a number of his translations came out in the literary supplement to the widely circulated newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*: five poems by Lermontov and an excerpt from Bunin's "The Case of Cornet Elagin."

Scholarly Engagement: Although the translations are the most visible facet of Russia-related scholarly and cultural activity in Brazil, the country is also home to a small but active contingent of Russian literature scholars, many of whom are involved in the aforementioned translation projects. The Russian program at the University of São Paulo maintains a busy agenda of events, including guest talks and roundtables featuring internationally renowned researchers from the United States, Great Britain, Europe, and Russia. There are also a number of scholarly journals, in print or online, dedicated exclusively to Russian language and literature, including *RUS* and *Kinoruss*, the latter dedicated to individual filmmakers, such as Andrei Tarkovsky and Alexander Sokurov, and featuring articles by local and foreign scholars.

One area of scholarly production that, from a Western or Russian perspective, might appear to be lacking is monographs. This is due to different requirements for academic tenure, which deemphasize the publication of revised dissertations in book form, and likewise due to the small market for Russian literary studies (and small number of quality university presses). 10 The disparity between the large number of translations and the lack of monographs is glaring, and Bruno Gomide's appeal for a volume intended to a Brazilian audience that would "provide a panorama and introduction to Russian literature" should be heeded by current and future scholars. 11 Honorable exceptions are Homero Freitas de Andrade's O Diabo Solto em Moscou [The Devil Loose in Moscow] (EDUSP, 2002), a biographical sketch and selection of autobiographical prose by Mikhail Bulgakov; Arlete Cavaliere's Teatro Russo: Percurso para um Estudo da Paródia e do Grotesco [Russian Theater: Course for the Study of Parody and Grotesque] (Humanitas, 2009), on parody and the grotesque in Russian theater; and Gomide's own Da Estepe à Caatinga: O Romance Russo no Brasil 1887-1936) [From Steppe to Caatinga: The Russian Romance in Brazil (1887-1936)] (EDUSP, 2011), a historical overview of the reception of Russian (and occasionally "pseudo-Russian") literature in Brazil before

the first wave of Soviet-Brazilian encounters in the 1930s.<sup>12</sup>

To an audience in the "Global North," the participation of scholars from Brazil in international conferences such as ASEEES constitutes the most visible facet of the field. The 2015 ASEEES convention included a panel on Russian-Latin American literary and cultural relations, with talks by Brazil-based and foreign scholars on such topics as the first productions of Chekhov plays in Brazil and the insertion of Russian literature in the Latin American cultural canon over the twentieth century. The 2016 convention featured a panel on Russian-Brazilian encounters in film (for instance on the reception of Jorge Amado film adaptations in the Soviet Union), part of a series on film exchanges between Latin America and the Eastern Bloc; as well as a paper on Schnaiderman's role in the Brazilian reception of Lev Tolstoy.

In an essay in Projeções, Schnaiderman produces a broad overview of the Russian scholarship on and popular perception of Brazil, historically based on an exotic, at times wildly fantastic, conception of the country as a tropical virgin paradise. The article is dated 1962, in the midst of what Tobias Rupprecht calls Soviet internationalism after Stalin—the process of mutual rediscovery between the Soviet Union and Latin America. Thanks to Soviet internationalism as well as the pioneering efforts of Schnaiderman and a whole generation of translators that came in his wake, much progress has been made in the diffusion of Russian literature (and culture more broadly) in Brazil. It is to be hoped that, now that an enviable critical mass in the creation of a literary canon through quality translations has been reached, more resources will be devoted to the expansion of studies of Russian literature, whether in comparison with the Brazilian and Latin American traditions or on their own. Granted, the needs and established practices of the discipline differ from those in the "Global North" and are often directly tied to the whims of state budget allocations and the vagaries of the national economy. Yet Schnaiderman's many volumes of essays, as well as the paratexts (prefaces, introductions, etc.) that accompany contemporary translations, already constitute a key first step towards the consolidation of a body of interpretive work on Russian literature in Portuguese.

Cassio de Oliveira is Assistant Professor of Russian in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Portland State University, where he teaches courses in Russian language, literature, and culture, especially film.

#### (Endnotes)

- 1 I would like to express my gratitude to Bruno Gomide for his help with sources and information on Boris Schnaiderman's life, and for his valuable feedback on an earlier draft of this article.
- 2 Victor Terras, Review of *Poesia Russa Moderna* by Haroldo de Campos and Augusto de Campos. *Slavic and East European Journal* 13 No. 4 (Winter 1969): 507-508. http://www.jstor.org/stable/306233. See also Robert W. Simmons, Jr., review of *Poemas* by Vladimir Maiakóvski et al., and *The Complete Plays of Vladimir Mayakovsky*. *SEEJ* 13, no. 3 (Autumn 1969): 385-387. http://www.jstor.org/stable/306362.
- 3 See Boris Schnaiderman, "Haroldo de Campos e a transcriação da poesia russa moderna." *Fragmentos* 4, no. 2 (1994): 9-18, here p. 12.
- 4 See Tobias Rupprecht, Soviet Internationalism after Stalin: Interaction and Exchange Between the USSR and Latin America during the Cold War (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), especially Chapters 2-3.
- 5 Aurora Bernardini, "Discurso de Saudação." *Caderno de Literatura e Cultura Russa* 1 (March 2004): 383-392.
- 6 The following sources provide valuable information on Schnaiderman's life: Bruno Barretto Gomide, "Boris Schnaiderman: questões de tradução nas páginas de jornal., Estudos Avançados 26.76 (2012): 39-45; Bruno Gomide, "Trud i printsip Borisa Shnaidermana," Literaturnaia gazeta 41 (6434), October 16, 2013; Paulo Werneck, "Tradutor do russo Boris Schnaiderman morre em São Paulo aos 99 anos," Folha de São Paulo, May 18, 2016; Gutemberg Medeiros, "Notas esparsas sobre Boris Schnaiderman," El País (Brazilian edition), June 18, 2016; Manuel da Costa Pinto, "A trajetória única de Boris Schnaiderman," Folha de São Paulo, June 19,

- 2016. In 2013, O Pracinha de Odessa was produced about Schnaiderman.
- 7 Boris Schnaiderman, *Projeções: Rússia/Brasil/Itália* (São Paulo: Perspectiva, 1977), 75.
- 8 This is a point also raised by Bruno Barretto Gomide in his introduction to *Nova antologia do conto russo* (São Paulo: Editora 34, 2011), 15.
- 9 Paulo Bezerra produces an interesting overview of his translating method in an article entitled "A tradução como criação" in *Estudos Avançados* 26, no. 76 (2012): 47-56, available in English and Portuguese.
- 10 All the master's theses and doctoral dissertations defended in the Russian Program at the University of São Paulo (currently 52 titles) are accessible via an online repository.
- 11 Gomide, 14.
- 12 Outside Brazil, Sharon Lubkemann Allen's *EccentriCities: Writing in the Margins of Modernism* (Manchester UP, 2013) is a worthy recent addition to comparative studies of Brazilian and Russian literatures in a hermeneutic vein.





## ASEES CONGRATULATES AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS' 2016 PRIZE WINNERS

#### The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS)

AWSS is pleased to announce that **Lisa Kirschenbaum** is winner of the **2016 Outstanding Achievement Award**. Kirschenbaum is Professor of History at West Chester University. An extraordinary scholar, whose distinguished record of continuous publication has set the highest standards in our field, Kirschenbaum is also a caring mentor, and a warm and generous colleague who has served both the ASEEES and the AWSS in numerous roles.

#### **AWSS 2016 Heldt Prizes**

### Best Book in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Women's Studies

**Keely Stauter-Halsted**, *The Devil's Chain: Prostitution and Social Control in Partitioned Poland* (Cornell University Press, 2015).

Honorable Mention: **Jennifer Suchland**, *Economies of Violence: Transnational Feminism*, *Postsocialism*, *and the Politics of Sex Trafficking* (Duke University Press, 2015).

### Best Book by a Woman in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

**Lisa Kirschenbaum**, *International Communism and the Spanish Civil War: Solidarity and Suspicion* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Honorable Mentions: **Erika Monahan**, *The Merchants of Siberia: Trade in Early Modern Russia* (Cornell University Press, 2016) and **Eileen Kane**, *Russian Hajj: Empire and the Pilgrimage to Mecca* (Cornell University Press, 2015).

### Best Article in Slavic/East European/Eurasian Women's Studies

**Claire E. McCallum**, "Scorched by the Fire of War: Masculinity, War Wounds and Disability in Soviet Visual Culture, 1941-65," *Slavonic and East European Review* 93, no. 2: 251-85.

#### 2016 Mary Zirin Prize

AWSS is pleased to announce **Margaret Samu** as the recipient of the 2016 Mary Zirin Prize for independent scholarship.

#### 2016 Graduate Research Prize

The AWSS Graduate Research Prize is awarded to **Rebecca Hastings**, PhD candidate in History at the University of Oregon (major advisor: Julie Hessler) for her project, "Oil and Society in Azerbaijan, 1860-2015."

#### 2016 Graduate Essay Prize

The Graduate Essay Prize Committee is awarded to **Joy Neumeyer**, a PhD student in History at the University of California at Berkeley, for her masterful essay, "Brezhnev, Vysotsky, and the Death of Developed Socialism: A Tragic Farce in Five Acts."

#### The Early Slavic Studies Association (ESSA)

**ESSA 2016 Book Prize** for most outstanding recent scholarly monograph on pre-modern Slavdom was awarded to **Paul Knoll** for "A Peal of Powerful Learning": The University of Cracow in the Fifteenth Century (Brill, 2016).

ESSA 2016 Book Prize Honorable Mention was awarded to **Erika Monahan** for *The Merchants of Siberia: Trade in Early Modern Eurasia* (Cornell, 2016).

### 2017 ASEES DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD Call for Nominations

Established in 1970, the Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award honors eminent members of the profession who have made major contributions to the field through scholarship of the highest quality, mentoring, leadership, and/or service to the profession. The prize is intended to recognize diverse contributions across the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies field.

#### NOMINATING INSTRUCTIONS

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

The deadline for nominations is April 1

The Distinguished Contributions Award Committee:

- Denise Youngblood, U of Vermont, Chair
- Kristen Ghodsee, Bowdoin College
- Jan Kubik, U College London (UK)
- Eric Naiman, UC Berkeley
- Amy Nelson, Virginia Tech

**ESSA 2016 Article Prize** for most outstanding recent scholarly article on pre-modern Slavdom was awarded to **David Goldfrank** for "Litigious, Pedagogical, Redemptive, Lethal: Iosif Volotskii's Calculated Insults" from The Russian Review 75, no. 1 (2016)

**ESSA 2016 Translation Prize** for most outstanding recent scholarly translation of primary source material relating to pre-modern Slavdom to **Moshe Taube** for The Logika of the Judaizers: A Fifteenth-Century Ruthenian Translation from Hebrew (The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 2016).

#### **Czechoslovak Studies Association**

**The 2016 Pech Prize** for best article in Czechoslovak Studies went to **David Scheffel** for his article, "Belonging and domesticated ethnicity in Veľký Šariš, Slovakia," published in *Romani Studies*, 25, no. 2 (2016).

#### 2016 Historia Nova

The Historia Nova Prize Committee is pleased to award the **2016 prize for the Best Book on Russian Intellectual and Cultural History** to **Michael David-Fox** for his volume *Crossing Borders: Modernity, Ideology, and Culture in Russia and the Soviet Union* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015).

#### **Hungarian Studies Association**

The winner of the Mark Pittaway Article Prize, presented biennially by the Hungarian Studies Association, is James Mark and Péter Apor, "Socialism Goes Global: Decolonization and the Making of a New Culture of Internationalism in Socialist Hungary, 1956–1989," *The Journal of Modern History* 87, no. 4 (2015): 852-891.

The honorable mention is **Ferenc Laczó**, "The Foundational Dilemmas of Jenő Lévai: On the Birth of Hungarian Holocaust Historiography in the 1940s," *Holocaust Studies* 21, nos. 1-2 (2015): 93-119.

# **Soyuz:** The Research Network for Postsocialist Studies Inna Leykin (Lecturer, Open University of Israel) was selected as the winner of the first annual Soyuz Article Prize for her exceptional article "Rodologia: Geneology as Therapy in Post Soviet Russia", which appeared in *Ethos* in 2015.

The review committee extended "honorable mention" to two other scholars, whose submissions were unanimously considered of very high quality: **Tatiana Chudakova**, for her *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* article "Caring for Strangers: Aging, Traditional Medicine, and Collective Care in Post-socialist Russia," and **Liene Ozolina-Fitzgerald**, for her article "A State of Limbo: The Politics of Waiting in Neo-Liberal Latvia," which appeared in the *British Journal of Sociology*.

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#### 1917 Website on ASEEES Commons

In recognition of the centenary of the 1917 revolution and its impact around the world, ASEES has created a website to gather resources and related events. If you have resources, course syllabi and events to add, please visit:

1917resources.aseees.hcommons.org

#### **Upcoming Webinars**

Jan. 19, 2pm ET "Introducing ASEES Commons: Why and How to Use It"

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Feb. 16, 2pm ET "Finding Grants for Your Research Projects"

Feb. 23, 2pm ET "Structuring Your Grant Proposal"

To register:

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#### New from Slavica Publishers

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

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

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

Albert Rhys Williams. *Through the Russian Revolution*, ed. William Benton Whisenhunt, 199 p., 2016 (ISBN 978-0-89357-464-2), \$24.95.

In this first-hand account, Williams, a Congregationalist pastor-turned-labor-organizer-and-journalist, documents the exciting and chaotic events of the Russian Revolution from June 1917 to August 1918. A lifelong defender of the Soviet system, Williams offers an account that, while openly sympathetic to the Bolsheviks, reveals to a modern audience the inner workings of the Bolshevik Party, life in Petrograd and the countryside, and an optimistic vision of the revolutionary future.



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Closing Gaps or Digging Holes?

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

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

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

immediate post-Soviet past together with the "ordinary folks" who were fated to live it. In addition to

String on the present, these works offer an armchair trip
Books to Siberia along with the aesthetic pleasures that flow from the pen

of a master storyteller.

Boris Poplavsky, *Apollon Bezobra- zov*, trans. John Kopper, xxvi + 172 p.,

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

produced in the interwar emigration.

2015 (ISBN 978-089357-453-6), \$19.95.



### 2017 ASEES Board of Directors & Committees

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Names in bold indicate new additions

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Maria Shardakova, Indiana U, 2017-2019

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**Kit Condill**, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair of Subcommittee on Collection Development, 2017-2019

**Janice Pilch**, Rutgers U, Chair of Subcommittee on Copyright Issues, 2017-2019

**Joe Lenkart**, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair of Subcommittee on Education & Access, 2017-2019

**Liladhar Pendse**, UC Berkeley, Member at Large, 2017-2019 **Jon Giullian**, U of Kansas, Website Administrator, ex officio

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**Noor Borbieva**, Indiana U Purdue U Fort Wayne, 2017-2019 **Betsy Hemenway**, Loyola U Chicago, 2017-2018 (*ex officio* as president of AWSS)

Natalie McCauley, U of Michigan, 2016-2018

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#### Jonathan Larson, Grinnell College, 2017-2019

Ben Loring, Georgetown U, 2016-2017 Jeremy Tasch, Towson U, 2016-2018 Jennifer Wilson, U of Pennsylvania, 2016-2018

#### **Committee on Mentoring**

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Daniel Peris, Federated Investors, 2015-2017

#### PRIZE COMMITTEES

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

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#### Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize Committee

Maria Bucur-Deckard, Indiana U, Chair, 2017-2018 Nancy Condee, U of Pittsburgh, 2016-2017 Stephen Hutchings, U of Manchester (UK), 2016-2017 Jason Wittenberg, UC Berkeley, 2017-2018

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

Samuel Greene, U College London (UK), Chair, 2017-2018 Morgan Liu, Ohio State U, 2017-2019 Jelena Subotic, Georgia State U, 2017-2019

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

Galya Diment, U of Washington, Chair, 2015-2017 **Jeremy Hicks**, Queens Mary, U of London (UK), 2017-2019 Cristina Vatulescu, New York U, 2016-2018

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

Glennys Young, U of Washington, Chair, 2015-2017 Norman Naimark, Stanford U, 2016-2018 **Christine Ruane**, U of Tulsa, 2017-2019

#### Marshall Shulman Book Prize Committee

Alexander Cooley, Barnard College, Chair, 2015-2017 **Rachel Epstein**, U of Denver, 2017-2019 Laura Henry, Bowdoin College, 2016-2017

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

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

Paula Pickering, College of William & Mary, Chair, 2015-2017 Laurence Cole, U of Salzburg (Austria), 2016-2018 **James Mark,** U of Exeter (UK), 2017-2019

#### Kulczycki Book Prize Committee

Nathan Wood, U of Kansas, Chair, 2015-2017 **Jessie Labov,** Central European U (Hungary), 2017-2019 Joanna Nizynska, Indiana U, 2016-2018

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

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Eric Gordy, U College London (UK), 2017-2019 Victoria Smolkin, Wesleyan U, 2016-2018

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

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#### **GRANT/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES**

#### **ASEES Dissertation Grant Committee**

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

**Venelin Ganev**, Miami U of Ohio, 2017-2019 Jessie Labov, Central European U (Hungary), 2015-2017

#### <u>Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship Selection</u> <u>Committee</u>

Alexander Rabinowitch, Indiana U, Chair, 2015-2017 **Catriona Kelly**, U of Oxford (UK), 2017-2018 Richard Wortman, Columbia U, 2015-2017

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

Joshua First, U of Mississippi, Chair, 2015-2017 **Jessica Graybill,** Colgate U, 2017-2019 Polly Jones, U of Oxford (UK), 2015-2017

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

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

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

Oxana Shevel, Barnard College, 2017-2019 Joachim von Puttkamer, U Jena (Germany), 2017-2018 John Ackerman, Cornell U Press, 2015-2017 (non-voting member)

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

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

Mark Leiderman, U of Colorado, 2017-2019 Madeleine Reeves, U of Manchester (UK), 2016-2018



### **Publications**

Disintegration of the Atom/Petersburg Winters, by Georgy Ivanov, was translated from the Russian, edited, annotated, and introduced by Jerome Katsell and Stanislav Shvabrin as part of the Academic Studies Press series: Cultural Revolutions: Russia in the Twentieth Century.

This book, published in April 2016, presents translations of two celebrated works by Georgy Ivanov. *Disintegration of the Atom* (1938) is a prose poem depicting Russian émigré despair on the eve of WWII—a cri de coeur that challenges prevailing concepts of time and space, ending in erotically charged wretchedness. *Petersburg Winters* (1928/1952) is a portrait of Saint Petersburg swept up in the artistic ferment of late imperial and revolutionary Russia. The spirit of the city is conveyed through a series of vignettes of Ivanov's contemporaries, including Blok, Akhmatova, Esenin, and Mandelstam.

Ethnic Minorities and Politics in Post-Socialist Southeastern Europe, co-edited by Sabrina P. Ramet and Marko Valenta, was published in September 2016 by Cambridge University Press. The volume brings together the work of both political scientists and sociologists, with chapters on the ethnic minority parties of Romania, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Serbia, as well as studies focusing on migration, citizenship issues, and ethnic boundaries.

From the Bible to Shakespeare: Pantelejmon Kuliš (1819–97) and the Formation of Literary Ukrainian, by Andrii Danylenko, was published by Academic Studies Press in September 2016.

This is the first English-language study of the translations of the Bible and Shakespeare into vernacular Ukrainian by Pantelejmon Kuliš (1819–97), a maverick in early Ukranian nationalism and a pioneering figure of the modern understanding of Ukrainian literature. In this study, Kuliš's translations are discussed in tandem with the time and people engaged in their assessment. As a result, the Ukrainian Bible and Shakespeare prove crucial to tracing the contours of a full and complete picture of the development of literary Ukrainian in the two historical parts of Ukraine—Galicia and Dnieper Ukraine—from the mid-nineteenth century onward.

HURI Publications is pleased to announce that *The Future of the Past: New Perspectives on Ukrainian History*, edited by Serhii Plokhy, is now available.

Bringing together the insights of 21 historians, this collection is the product of a conference series on Ukrainian historiography. The conferences examined interwar national and nationalist historiography (Munich, July 2012), the legacy of Soviet historical writing (Lviv, May 2013), and the future of Ukrainian historical studies (Cambridge, MA, October 2013).

This collection of essays proposes to rethink the meaning of Ukrainian history by venturing outside

the boundaries established by the national paradigm and demonstrating how research on the history of Ukraine can benefit from both regional and global perspectives. The volume considers whether history and historical narratives can be blamed for what has happened in the region, or whether they can lead to peace and a better understanding of history in a broader European context.

Greetings, Pushkin! Stalinist Cultural Politics and the Russian National Bard, by Jonathan Platt, was published by University of Pittsburgh Press in June 2016.

In 1937, the Soviet Union mounted a national celebration commemorating the centenary of poet Alexander Pushkin's death. *Greetings, Pushkin!* presents the first in-depth study of this historic event and follows its manifestations in art, literature, popular culture, education, and politics, while also examining its philosophical underpinnings.

Platt looks deeply into the motivations behind the Soviet glorification of a long-dead poet—seemingly at odds with the October revolution's radical break with the past. He views the Pushkin celebration as a conjunction of two opposing approaches to time and modernity: monumentalism and eschatology. Monumentalism, in pointing to specific moments and individuals as the origin point for cultural narratives; and eschatology, which glorifies ruptures in the chain of art or thought, and the destruction of canons.

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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.

Vladislav Rjeoutski edited *Quand le français gouvernait la Russie. L'éducation de la noblesse russe* (L'Harmattan, 2016). A growing interest in education and in the French language in Russia encouraged thousands of French, Swiss, and Germans to flock to the country in the mid-eighteenth century in order to educate the children of the nobility. Players in an exciting transmission of ideas and practices, they contributed to a cultural transformation of the Russian elites. Gathering together writings of both teachers and parents of young Russian nobles, the book takes us right into the heart of the phenomenon. The documents from public and private archives published in this book constitute an unexpected and vivid history of ideas to the East of Europe.

More Words to the Wise: Further Reflections on Polish Language, Literature, and Folklore, by Robert A. Rothstein, was released by Slavica Publishers in 2016. Since 2004 Rothstein has been writing about Polish language, literature, and folklore for the Boston-based biweekly Biały Orzeł/White Eagle. Inspired by the calendar, items in the Polish press, his experience learning and teaching the Polish language, new acquisitions for his home library, questions from readers, and serendipity, he has explored the origins of words and expressions, the grammatical peculiarities of the language, and the reflections of everyday life in proverbs and folksongs and in the works of Polish writers.

Olga Bertelsen edited *Revolution and War in Contemporary Ukraine: The Challenge of Change*, which was released by Ibidem Verlag in 2016.

This volume highlights: the role of the Revolution of Dignity and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in the formation of Ukrainian civil society; the information- and cultural warfare waged by Moscow against Kyiv; Ukrainian and Russian identities and cultural realignment; sources of destabilization in Ukraine and beyond; memory politics and Russian foreign policies; the

Kremlin's geopolitical goals in its "near abroad"; and factors determining Ukraine's future and survival in a state of war. The studies included in this collection illuminate the growing gap between the political and societal systems of Ukraine and Russia. The anthology illustrates how the Ukrainian revolution of 2013–2014, Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula, and the conflict in eastern Ukraine have altered the post-Cold War political landscape and, with it, the regional and global power and security dynamics.

Rosalind Blakesley's *The Russian Canvas: Painting in Imperial Russia*, 1757-1881 (Yale University Press, 2016), explores Russian painting, from the foundation of the Imperial Academy of Arts in 1757 to the assassination of Alexander II in 1881. During that time, Russia's painters evolved from untrained individuals in awe of their western counterparts, to proud professionals claiming their place on the

international stage. By tracing this narrative, the book is the first to consider precisely how professional painters emerged in Russia, and unravel the curious ways in which pan-European engagement operated alongside local and national peculiarities to create a body of painting that Russians proudly claimed as their own.

The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921, by Mark D. Steinberg, was published by Oxford University Press in December 2016. This new history of the Russian Revolution explores how people experienced it in their own lives, from Bloody Sunday in 1905 to the final shots of the civil war in 1921. The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921 focuses on human experience to address key issues of inequality, power, and violence, and ideas of justice and freedom. The book includes an account of living through significant events from 1905 to 1921; a survey of the key characters of the Revolution, such as Vladimir Lenin, Lev Trotsky, Alexandra Kollontai, Vladimir Mayakovsky, and Isaac Babel; and a narrative drawn from contemporary texts and voices to bring the past and its meanings to life.

Russian/Soviet Studies in the United States, Amerikanistika in Russia: Mutual Representations in Academic Projects, edited by Ivan Kurilla and Victoria I. Zhuravleva, was published by Lexington Books in December 2015.

Contributors (David Engerman, Milla Fedorova, Vladimir Gel'man, Mark Kramer, Ivan Kurilla, Norman Saul, William Whisenhunt, Sergei Zhuk, and Victoria Zhuravleva) in this interdisciplinary collection address the problem of interconnection between the study of the "Other," either Russian or American, and the shaping of national identities in the two countries at different stages of US–Russian relations. The focus of research interests was typically determined by the political and social debates in scholars' native countries. In this book, Russian



### Summer Language Workshop





### June 5 – July 28, 2017

Funding available for qualified applicants: Title VIII, Project GO (ROTC), and FLAS

Host of the 2017 Baltic Studies Summer Institute

#### All participants pay in-state tuition

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and American scholars analyze the problems arising from these intersections of academic, political, and sociocultural contexts and the implicit biases they entail. The book is divided into two parts, the first being a historical overview of past configurations of the interrelationship between fields and agendas, and the second covering the role of institutionalized area studies in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In both parts the role of the "human factor" in the study of mutual representations is elucidating.

Small States, Big Challenges: Norway and Slovenia in Comparative Perspective, co-edited by Kristen Ringdal, Sabrina P. Ramet, and Danica Fink-Hafner, was published in June 2016 by Nomos Verlag of Baden-Baden. The volume brings together chapters written primarily by professors at the Norwegian University of Science & Technology and the University of Ljubljana, reflecting on such topics as history textbooks, Church-state relations, the media, and gender equality.

Spatial Concepts of Lithuania in the Long Nineteenth Century (Academic Studies Press, November 2016), edited by Darius Staliunas as part of the Lithuanian Studies without Borders Series, deals with nineteenth-century spatial concepts of Lithuania and other geo-images that either "competed" with the term "Lithuania" or were of a different taxonomic level (Samogitia, Prussia's Lithuania, Lithuania Minor, Poland, the Western region, the Northwest Region, Lita/Lite, Belarus, East Prussia, etc.). The Russian, Lithuanian, Polish, Belarusian, Jewish, and German geo-images of this territory are analyzed in separate chapters of this volume. The spatial and topographical turns, especially the innovative perspective suggested by French Marxist Henri Lefebvre for looking at (social) space as a product of social creativity, research on so-called mental maps, postcolonial studies, and nationalism studies provide some theoretical background as well as analytical approaches for the studies published in this volume.

University of Pittsburgh Press has published Michael Katz's English translation of Vasily Sleptsov's 1865 novel of liberals and radicals in 1860s Russia entitled *Trudnoe vremya (Hard Times)*. William Brumfield authored the introduction.

Sleptsov was a Russian social activist and writer during the politically charged 1860s, known as the "era of great reforms," and marked by Alexander II's emancipation of the serfs and relaxation of censorship. The novella *Hard Times* is considered Sleptsov's most important work and was immediately recognized as a vibrant and compelling depiction of pre-revolutionary Russian intellectual society, full of lively debates about the possibilities of liberal reform or radical revolution that questioned the viability of a political system facing massive social problems.

This is the first English language version of *Hard Times*; it provides historical insights on the political and social climate of a volatile and transformative period in Russian history.

### FORTHCOMING IN SLAVIC REVIEW SPRING 2017

#### CRITICAL FORUM ON STATISTICS

"European Statistics, Russian Numbers and Social Dynamics, 1861–1914," by Alessandro Stanziani

"Read Zamiatin, but Not to Correct His Math," by Yanni Kotsonis

"On the Uses of Russian Statistics: A Response to Alessandro Stanziani's 'European Statistics, Russian Numbers and Social Dynamics, 1861–1914," by Mikhail Avrekh

"Quantitative Approach to the Russian Past: A Comment on European Statistics, Russian Numbers and Social Dynamics, 1861–1914, by Alessandro Stanziani," by Andrei Markevich and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya

#### CRITICAL FORUM: THE AFTERLIFE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

"The Elusive Search for Evidence: Evgenii Khaldei's Budapest Ghetto, Images of Rape, and Soviet Holocaust Photography," by David Shneer

"Photographs as Historic Documents: An Examination of Two of Evgenii Khaldei's Budapest Photos," by Peter Pastor

"Afterlives of Photographs: The Artist's Point of View," by Jacek Fras

"Between Affect and Authenticity: Disobedient Photographs Ewa Stańczyk Photographs and Their Many Lives," by Olga Shevchenko

#### **ARTICLES**

"Dissimulation and Memory in Early Modern Poland-Lithuania: the Art of Forgetting," by Maria Ivanova and Michelle R. Viise

"From All Sides: Interdisciplinary Knowledge, Scientific Collaboration, and the Soviet Criminological Laboratories of the 1920s," by Kenneth M. Pinnow

"Nabokov's The Gift, Dostoevsky, and the Tradition of Narratorial Ambiguity," by Stephen Blackwell

"Social Media and EuroMaidan: A Review Essay," by Megan Metzger and Joshua A Tucker

### SLAVIC REVIEW PUBLISHED BY CAMBRIDGE U PRESS

Starting this year *Slavic Review* will be published by Cambridge University Press (CUP). ASEEES regular and student members will continue to receive copies and have access to the entire collection of *Slavic Review* on Cambridge Core via the ASEEES Member Site. As an added benefit of our partnership, members will receive 20% discount on all books published by CUP; article authors and reviewers (excluding book reviews) for *Slavic Review* will receive a 30% discount (for personal use only). You can register at Cambridge Core to receive alerts, create a personal reading list and save your searches. For more information see: www.cambridge.org/core/journals/slavic-review

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### **Institutional Member News**

### CFA: AMERICAN COUNCILS PEACE & SECURITY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS PROGRAM

June 30 – August 4, 2017

While rich in natural resources, scenic beauty, and vibrant cultures, the South Caucasus continues to be hampered by age-old conflicts and political instability. Based in Tbilisi, Georgia, this five-week summer program explores cultural identity and nationalism, development strategies, the emergence of new political systems and parties, and ongoing efforts to foster peace throughout the region.

The academic program features approximately twenty-two hours per week of in-class instruction. Content courses are designed to give participants an in-depth understanding of modern political history of the region, security issues, nationalism and identity, state-building, and democratization. As part of the academic program, participants also receive language instruction at any level in one of the regional languages, including Azeri, Chechen, Georgian, or Russian; no prior language study is required.

The program includes weekly excursions and cultural activities, housing with local host families, two meals per day, a comprehensive pre-program orientation, and visa and logistical support. Upon successful completion of the program, participants receive 8-10 credits in political science and sociology, issued through Bryn Mawr College.

Applications are due by February 15, 2017, and can be found <u>online</u>. Please direct any questions regarding the application process to the AC Study Abroad Team (Phone: 202-833-7522; email: outbound@americancouncils.org). Financial aid is available on all programs.

#### ASU CRITICAL LANGUAGES INSTITUTE

CLI offers intensive courses in 10 critical languages and study-abroad programs in 7 locations. Participants earn 8-13 credits and cover a minimum of 2 semesters of material. Participants pay a flat fee of \$900 (plus study-abroad fees, if applicable) instead of tuition.

CLI also offers generous financial support, including: Title VIII Fellowships for graduate students; Project GO Scholarships for ROTC students, ASU Jewish Studies Scholarships for Hebrew, Birks Scholarships for Polish, Berkowitz Scholarships for Albanian, Melikian Scholarships for all other participants. Visit http://cli.asu.edu for details. Deadline: January 27, 2017.

ASU Critical Languages Institute Combination Courses are offered in Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Modern Hebrew, Persian, Polish, Russian, Turkish, and Uzbek. Sessions at ASU include daily co-curricular programming, grant mentoring and career planning opportunities. Sessions abroad feature academically challenging study, co-curricular programming integrated into academic coursework and

conducted in one-on-one or in small-groups by local activity guides.

The Overseas Programs offer 2-month intensive programs providing 8–10 academic credits in Albanian, Armenian, BCS, and Russian. Programs feature homestays, extensive co-curricular programming, integrated into academic coursework and conducted in 1-on1 or small-group format by local activity guides. The applications and full program details can be found: http://cli.asu.edu.

#### BEYOND YOUNG RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY HAVIGHURST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND POST-SOVIET STUDIES, MIAMI UNIVERSITY

June 13-16, 2017, Villa Vergiliana, Cuma, Italy

Discussing the Russian revolution is impossible without addressing the causes, legacy, and echoes of this event. The very phrasing is contentious: was 1917 a revolution, overthrow, or accident? Examining the Russian and Soviet response is complex enough, yet the Bolshevik takeover had ramifications for the world. In literature the image of the revolution and the ensuing changes was polarized from the beginning, both in the new Soviet state and abroad. Those in history and the social sciences have long puzzled over interpreting the USSR, its influence on Eastern Europe (and the developing world), and the aftermath of its collapse. In otherwise disparate regions—from eastern Germany to Central Asia and the Russian Far East-1917 and the USSR defined the twentieth century, whether as horrific trauma, utopian promises, or a confounding combination of the two. How our field responds to the Russian revolution will define Eurasian studies for the coming decades, just as experts continue to debate the significance of other cultural markers such as 1905, 1956, and 1989.

The Young Researchers Conference will feature the following keynote speakers: Catriona Kelly (Oxford) and Boris Kolonitskii (European University at St. Petersburg)

Cuma, Italy is located one hour from Naples, and an hour and a half from Capri. The train ride from Rome's Termini train station is about 1-1/2 hours. The Havighurst Center will provide all meals and 3 nights (shared room) at the Villa Vergiliana. Participants will be responsible for all travel.

### HOOVER ACQUIRES NEW SOVIET-ERA COLLECTIONS OF DISSIDENT POETS AND WRITERS

Hoover Archives recently acquired the papers of Aleksandr Esenin-Vol'pin and of Pavel Litvinov, both of whom were notable Soviet dissidents, as well as a significant addition to the papers of Nobel Prize-winning poet Joseph Brodksy. A poet and mathematician, Aleksandr Esenin-Vol'pin is considered one of the founders of the human rights movement in the USSR. Pavel Litvinov was a physicist, writer, and Soviet-era dissident and the grandson of Maxim Litvnov, Russian minister of

foreign affairs in 1930–39 and ambassador to the United States in 1941–43. Brodsky, who was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1972, resettled in America and in 1991 became the United States Poet Laureate. Hoover's recent Brodsky acquisition has received international attention on Twitter, the blogs 3 Quarks Daily and Books Inq., and in the journal *Colta* (Moscow).

Additionally, RFE/RL donated its Cold War corporate and broadcast records to the Hoover Institution Library and Archives. http://www.hoover.org/library-archives/collections/radio-free-europeradio-liberty-records. The basic finding aids are available at http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt4489q9wz/?query=rfe and http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt996nd6jz/?query=rfe. As digitized, broadcast recordings, program transcripts, promotional films, and oral history interviews about the radios are placed online at http://digitalcollections.hoover.org.

#### IU SUMMER LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

The 2017 Indiana University Summer Language Workshop is currently accepting applications for intensive study of Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Chinese, Estonian, Hungarian, Kurdish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Persian, Russian, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

All students pay in-state tuition for 4-10 credits; ProjectGO, Title VIII Fellowships, and FLAS funding available.

The priority deadline for funding consideration is February 1, 2017. (Project GO applications are due January 17.) General admission applications will be accepted until May 1. Late applications for funding will be considered on a rolling basis if funding is available. See http://www.indiana.edu/~swseel/for more information and to apply today. Questions? Contact swseel@indiana.edu or 812-855-2889.

### REEI ANNOUNCES THE NEW ERNE FELLOWSHIP FOR SERBIAN STUDIES

Indiana University alumni Ann Jakisich Erne and David A. Erne have established the Ann and David Erne Fellowship to support the studies of an incoming graduate student enrolled in the Russian and East European Institute Master's degree plan. The one-year fellowship provides a stipend of \$22,000, 30 hours of course credits, and health insurance. The fellowship is renewable for an additional year for recipients who maintain satisfactory academic standing. No separate application is necessary (i.e. the standard application to the REEI MA program will also serve as application for this fellowship). Natives of Serbia, persons of Serbian heritage, and persons who demonstrate a strong scholarly focus on Serbia will be given special consideration in the selection process. The fellowship will be awarded every other year, beginning in 2017.

#### CFP: 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROMANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE APRIL 14-15, 2017 AT INDIANA U-BLOOMINGTON

Proposals from graduate students and recent PhDs on any topic related to Romania, Moldova, or the Romanian diaspora, in any discipline or methodology are welcome.

Especially encouraged are interdisciplinary approaches but papers from historians, political scientists, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, folklorists, linguists, literary critics, and musicologists may be accepted.

This year the keynote address, titled "Women and the Moral Dimension of Politics in Contemporary Romania," will be delivered by Dr. Mihaela Miroiu, professor of Political Science at the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, in Bucharest, Romania. Miroiu is a political theorist and feminist philosopher who founded the first gender studies Master's program in Romania in 1998 and helped to organize one of the earliest independent women's nongovernmental organizations in the country. She is an expert advisor to both UNESCO and the European Union, and has won numerous international fellowships and awards.

Any inquiries about the conference or the program may be directed to Elena Popa at romso@indiana.edu.

#### KENNAN INSTITUTE NEWS

Title VIII Fellowships

The Kennan Institute offers three-to-nine month research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. We also offer two-month summer research fellowships. The deadline for the next research and summer research fellowship competitions is January 15, 2017.

Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants allow U.S. citizens whose policy-relevant research in the social sciences or humanities focused on the countries of Eurasia, to spend up to one month using the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the DC area, while in residence at KI. The next deadline for these grants is February 15, 2017. Please see the website for more details on the Title VIII-supported fellowship program: https://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-opportunities-and-internships.

#### George F. Kennan Fellowships

The George F. Kennan Fellowship is a three-month residency that offers a monthly stipend of \$3,200, research facilities, and computer access. Awardees are expected to commence their three-month appointments within one year of accepting the fellowship. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, DC, as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials at the State Department, USAID, Department of Defense, and Congress. While conducting research, 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. US, Russian, and Ukrainian citizens are eligible to apply.

Applicants have an option to apply for the fellowship

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as individuals or as part of a team. If applying as a team of two (or three) applicants, the applicants must be citizens of at least two different countries. The goal of such joint fellowships is to promote collaborative research projects among US, Russian, and Ukrainian experts. Fellowship Teams will: Produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications; Present work at events; Conduct meetings and engage with policymakers.

Competitions for the fellowships will be held twice yearly with the following application deadlines: March 1 and September 1. Applicants must submit a completed application.

The Kennan Institute welcomes its incoming scholars: Title VIII Short Term Scholars

Courtney Doucette, PhD candidate in history, Rutgers, the State U of New Jersey: "Perestroika: The Last Attempt to Create the New Soviet Person, 1985-1991."

Theodore Weeks, Professor, Dept. of History, Southern Illinois U Carbondale: "The Communist Wave Length: Soviet Radio in its International Context, 1918- 1939."

Galina Starovoitova Fellows on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

Raisa Borshchigova, Project Coordinator, Center for Peacebuilding and Community Developmen:. "Women's Fluctuating Status in Society and Role in the Social and Political Life of the Chechen Republic."

Roman Lunkin, Senior Researcher, Institute of Europe Russian Academy of Sciences: "Ethno-religious Conflicts in Crimea after 2014: Perspectives of the Freedom of Religion or

Study Russian In St. Petersburg, Russian Studies

e Russian and Eurasian Studies

e Russian and Eurasian Studies

e Energy Politics in Eurasia

EUROPEAN

UNIVERSITY AT

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Belief during Political Transformation."

#### George F. Kennan Fellows

Aleksandr Golts, Deputy Editor-in-Chief Y*ezhenedelny Zhurnal*: "The Consequences of the 'State Militarism' Revival in Russia."

Alexander Kondakov, Researcher, The Centre for Independent Social Research: "Hate Crimes against LGBT Individuals Shaping Evidence-Based Arguments for the Russian Situation."

Anna Kovalenko, Founding Director, NGO Democratic Control: "Democratic and Civilian Control over the Armed Forces in Ukraine: From Theory to Practice."

#### **Fulbright Scholars**

Dmytro Vovk, Associate Professor, Yaroslaw Mudryi National Law U: "Religious Freedom in Transitional, Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Legal Issues."

#### Kennan Experts

Marie Mendras, Professor, School of International Affairs, Sciences Po and Research Fellow, National Center for Scientific Research, Paris: "Elites' Estrangement from Decision-Making in Putin's Russia."

### CFA: COURSE DEVELOPMENT STIPENDS FOR RUSSIA, EASTERN EUROPE AND/OR EURASIA

The University of Pittsburgh, the Ohio State University, the University of Washington, Indiana University, and UC Berkeley are running a national competition to solicit applications from faculty and instructors at community colleges and minority-serving institutions to develop new courses that focus on Eastern Europe and/or Eurasia, or to redesign an existing course. Through funding from the International and Foreign Language Education division of the federal Department of Education, these Title VI National Resource Centers will give out subawards from \$1,000-\$3,000. Recipients can use the subaward funds for research related travel, curriculum and research purchases, and salary for research or curriculum design time. The goal of the program is to create more courses with 25% or more content that relates to Eastern Europe/Eurasia, broadening access to area studies coursework at community colleges and minority-serving institutions. Application Deadline: January 20, 2017. For full information (including institution eligibility requirements) and to download the application: http://slaviccenter.osu.edu/ curriculum-development-stipends. Please contact Eileen Kunkler, the Assistant Director at the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at the Ohio State University, for any questions. kunkler.10@osu.edu

#### OSU ANNOUNCES NEW CENTER DIRECTOR

Jill Bystydzienksi, Professor in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at OSU, is now serving as director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies.

#### ASSOCIATION FOR SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

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### **In Memoriam**

**Lauren G. Leighton**, 81, professor emeritus of Slavic and Baltic languages and literatures at the University of Illinois, Chicago, died January 15, 2016 in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Leighton received his bachelor's degree in Slavic languages from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1960 and a master's degree in Slavic languages and literatures from Indiana University in 1962. He earned a PhD in Slavic languages from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1968.

Leighton was an extensively published specialist in Russian Romanticism, in addition to translation theory and practice and Russian masonry. He taught Russian language and literature at University of Illionis-Chicago from 1978 until his retirement in 1997. As either an author, editor or translator, some of his books included Alexander Bestuzhev-Marlinsky, Two Worlds, One Art: Literary Translation in Russia and America, The Esoteric Tradition in Russian Romantic Literature, and The Art of Translation: Kornei Chukovsky's "A High Art."

Prior to joining UIC, Leighton was on the faculty at Northern Illinois University and University of Virginia.

Excerpted from his obituary.

Michelle Lamarche Marrese, an independent scholar of Imperial Russian history who focused on gender and noble culture in the pre-reform period, died October 30, 2016 at the age of 52.

A graduate of Yale University (1986), Marrese went on to earn a PhD at Northwestern University in 1995. She taught Imperial Russian history at the University of Delaware and the University of Toronto before becoming an independent scholar in order to devote full time to her research and writing.

Her 2002 trailblazing *A Woman's Kingdom: Noblewomen* and the Control of Property in Russia, 1700-1861 won Choice Magazine's "Outstanding Academic Title" for 2003, while her sophisticated article analyzing Yuri Lotman and the evolution of the Russian nobility's identity through the lens of gender in *Kritika* 11, no. 4 (2010) earned her the Heldt Prize for the best article in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's Studies.

Supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fulbright Foundation, the Harriman Institute, and the University of Münster, Marrese undertook work on a biography of Princess Ekaterina Dashkova that would also showcase noblewomen at the eighteenth-century Russian imperial court in the age of female rule. The consummate detective, Marrese worked in archival repositories in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Dublin, Edinburgh, London, and Paris. She delighted in Russian noblewomen's personal narratives and keen observations, the statements purveyed by their clothing and jewelry, and the roles that they carved out for themselves. Her initial analyses of these subjects have appeared in at least five articles and book chapters.

Text provided by Christine Worobec; an additional obituary is available <a href="here">here</a>.

James P. Scanlan, age 89, passed away on October 28, 2016. Scanlan was born in Chicago in 1927 and was a graduate of the University of Chicago with a B.A. degree in 1946, an M.A. and PhD in Philosophy, 1950 and 1956. In 1956 he moved to Baltimore, Maryland where Scanlan taught at Goucher College for 12 years. In 1968 Scanlan joined the Philosophy Department of the University of Kansas and also headed its Center for Soviet and East European Studies. In 1971 Scanlan was offered a joint appointment in Philosophy and the Slavic and East European Center at the Ohio State University where he remained for the rest of his academic career. From 1988 to 1991 he headed OSU's Slavic and East European Center and he became a Faculty Associate at OSU's Mershon Center. During his tenure at Ohio State, Scanlan spent two academic terms as a resident scholar abroad: at the Center for East-European Studies of the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, including time at the Bellagio Study Center of the Rockefeller Foundation in Italy; and as a visiting fellow at the Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, a particularly rewarding appointment. He was the recipient of many honors and awards for numerous publications (articles, books, and translations).

Excerpted from his obituary.

Robert Szulkin died in March 2016. Having taught Russian language and literature as well as Yiddish since 1962, he retired from a thirty-eight-year career at Brandeis University in 2000. His service to Brandeis included years as chairman of the German and Russian Department, a term as Dean of Students, and Director of the Sakharov Archives. He also wrote English subtitles for the Yiddish film collection for the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

Szulkin had no formal education until he came to the US in 1949, yet managed to enter Northeastern University and, after transferring to Boston University in his junior year, earned a BA in Russian literature. He began his teaching career at Brandeis in 1963 while working on his doctorate in Russian literature at Harvard.

Literary narrative guided Szulkin's approach to all subjects. He regularly gave talks to people in the business, medical and legal professions. From this came the "Sanford Lottor and Robert Szulkin Institute for the Study of Literature and the Judiciary."

Even in retirement, he began to work on translations of Russian and Yiddish works: Szulkin completed a translation of the only Yiddish science-fiction novel, *Oyf yener zayt Sambatyon* (*Across the River Sambatyon*) by Lazar Borodulin (1929). At the time of his death he was working on a translation of *The Book of Death, the Memoirs of Sergei Arkadyevich Andreyevski* (1847-1919).

Excerpted from text provided by Jeremy Paretsky.



### **Affiliate Group News**

#### 2017 AATSEEL CONFERENCE

The program for the 2017 AATSEEL Conference, February 2-5 in San Francisco, is now available: https://www.aatseel.org/cfp\_program\_2017. To pre-register, visit: http://www.aatseel.org/registration. The conference will be held at the Parc 55 hotel in Union Square. Hotel reservations may be made at the conference rate until January 15, 2017.

The Program Committee has planned several events including publishing forums, a screening of *Finding Babel*, and workshops on teaching and poetry. This year's program will pilot a new stream format that will engage participants in ongoing discussion on several different threads throughout the conference weekend. Please contact Dr. Rachel Stauffer, the AATSEEL Conference Manager, with any questions: aatseelconference@usc.edu

### 8TH BIENNIAL AWSS CONFERENCE: ROOTS AND LEGACIES OF REVOLUTION

April 6, 2017

The 8th AWSS Biennial Conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the SCSS conference as well and can attend both conferences with the same registration.

The conference theme recognizes the centennial of the Russian revolutions of 1917, which had a significant impact on the status and lives of women, as well as on the configuration of gender relations and representations throughout our region. We also draw attention to the roots of those revolutionary transformations in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian social, economic, political, literary, and creative practices and events of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Moreover, we are still living with the legacies of 1917, especially the effects on women and the post-Berlin Wall gender order. Thus, while AWSS commemorates the Russian revolutions, it welcomes papers across chronological and geographical spans from the tsarist era to the present day, from Berlin to Vladivostok.

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 funding. Any questions about the conference or the program should be directed to Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu) or Betsy Jones Hemenway (ehemenway@luc.edu).

### CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN TEACHERS OF AMERICA $19^{\text{TH}}$ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 31 - April 2, 2017, San Antonio, Texas

Join CARTA for sessions, panels, exhibits, awards, presentations, and cultural activities. More information about CARTA, registration and membership forms can be found at CARTA website: http://cartaws.wix.com/online

#### CFP: 2017 MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, APRIL 7–9, 2017

Conference organizers invite proposals for panels or individual papers addressing all disciplines related to Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. The conference will open with a keynote address by author and former National Public Radio correspondent Anne Garrels about her latest book, *Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia* on Friday, April 7th, followed by two days of panels.

Please send an abstract and CV in a single PDF to csees@osu.edu by January 20, 2017. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate. Limited funding is available for undergraduate and graduate student lodging with preference given to out-of-state participants.

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

For more information, contact the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, at csees@osu.edu, http://slaviccenter.osu.edu/about/conferences/midwest-slavic

## CFP: $38^{TH}$ ANNUAL NORTHEAST SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE April 1, 2017

Joshua Tucker, Director of the Jordan Center, will be the President of the 2017 Conference. Scholarly papers and panels are welcome on any aspect of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Complete panels will receive preference over individual paper submissions. Proposals must include: title; one-paragraph abstract; requests for technical support; presenter's contact information; presenter's institutional affiliation and professional status (professor, graduate student, etc.); and contact information for the panel organizer. Since 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the 150th anniversary of the sale of Russian America/purchase of Alaska, papers and panels on those topics are especially welcome. Undergraduate students under the guidance of a faculty mentor may present a paper if the faculty mentor submits the information listed above. Please submit proposals at https:// goo.gl/forms/iQIojuLKl4VdI6403 by January 15, 2017.

Professionals in the field are strongly encouraged to volunteer as chairs and/or discussants. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Two juried awards will be presented for the best graduate papers; the first paper prize will be entered

into the ASEEES competition. Following the Conference, graduate students may submit revised papers to the competition for review. Visual materials accompanying the presentation at the Conference should be submitted along with the written text. Papers must be between 7,500-14,000 words in length.

#### SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS OF EAST EUROPEAN. EURASIAN, AND RUSSIAN ART & ARCHITECTURE

SHERA had a successful meeting at the 2016 Annual ASEEES Convention in Washington, DC. Among the issues discussed was the upcoming CAA Conference, where SHERA has two sessions. The first session will be held February 15, 2017 during which "Radical Pop Culture? Trn and the young Czechoslovak Left of the 1920s," by Julia Secklehner; "The Modern Folklorism of Zagreb's City Cellar Murals," by Heidi Cook; and "Participation and Collectivity in Art of the Soviet and post-Soviet Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine since the 1970s," by Maria Lanko, will be presented. The second session, on February 17, will explore "Memory and Russian Émigré Art: New Perspectives," by Nicola Kozicharow; "Transition in Context: Inclusion of post-Soviet Artists into International Community," by Denis Stolyarov; and "Rereading Late-Soviet Art from the Curatorial Perspective," by Marina Maximova.

SHERA membership meeting will take place on February 17, 5:30-7pm in Bryant Suite, NY Hilton Midtown.

#### CFP: 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF SOUTHERN **CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES** ALEXANDRIA, VA—APRIL 6-8, 2017

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will be hosted by George Mason University's program in Russian and Eurasian Studies. Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome, as is a focus on countries other than Russia/USSR. Papers can be on any time period and any topic relevant to these regions. Papers on the special theme of the centenary of the Russian Revolution of 1917 are especially welcome.

The program committee is accepting proposals until January 15, 2017. Panel proposals 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 identifying information for all participants. Proposals for individual papers should include email address, CV, paper title, and abstract to guide the program committee in the assembly of panels. AV requests should be made at the time of panel/paper submission. Email your proposals to Emily Baran at emily.baran@mtsu.edu.

The local arrangements committee announces that, at the height of the Cherry Blossom Festival, a block of hotel rooms has been secured at a rate of \$159/night. Book rooms here. For conference information, please contact Steven Barnes at scssalexandria@ gmail.com. For questions regarding the program, please contact Emily Baran at emily.baran@mtsu.edu. More information can be seen at the conference website: https:// southernslavicconference2017.wordpress.com. On April 6, the Association for Women in Slavic Studies will hold its 8th Biennial Conference at the Westin. Your registration for SCSS entitles you to attendance of the AWSS Conference.

#### 2017 ANNUAL SOYUZ SYMPOSIUM: "EMBRACING CONFUSION AND QUESTIONING CLARITY: ON MATTERS OF METHOD IN POSTSOCIALIST STUDIES" MARCH 3-4, 2017

The 2017 Soyuz Symposium will be hosted by the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana U. The goal is to foster conversations about knowledge production in the field of postsocialist studies that spans generations of researchers: from graduate students and junior scholars to senior professionals. It is inspired by the immense and somewhat untapped potential that postsocialist studies have to offer to methodological conversations in social sciences. In our view, a more vibrant scholarly exchange will aid current compartmentalization of much scholarship into global North and South and produce new analytical categories. Recent resurgence of Cold War ideologies in Europe has ushered a renewed interest in this region on the part of policy makers, funding organizations, and academic programs; scholars of postsocialism are invited to provide their critical commentary on the issues that have accompanied these geopolitical shifts.

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### Personages

**Barbara Allen** was recently appointed co-editor of *Women East-West*, the newsletter of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies.

**Marina Antic** has been elevated to the rank of Assistant Professor at Indiana University.

Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Malinkin is now an Academic Program Specialist with the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia. In this role, she administers the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) and the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies (CPPS).

**Stanislav Markus** recently won the Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research awarded by the International Social Science Council and European Consortium for Political Research in 2016. Markus' book *Property, Predation, and Protection: Piranha Capitalism in Russia and Ukraine* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), looks at the threats to business owners' property rights, and how such rights can be secured.

ASEES members Mary Neuburger, Choi Chatterjee, Steven Marks, and Steve Sabol are organizing a conference, "The Wider Arc of Revolution: The Global Impact of 1917," in commemoration of the hundred-year anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, will be held under the auspices of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at University of Texas, Austin, on October 26-27, 2017. The conference will feature two keynote speakers (Sheila Fitzpatrick and Lisa Kirschenbaum), and will consist of a series of panels with pre-circulated papers submitted by participants.

**Helene Sinnreich** has just become the new Director of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Ariann Stern-Gottschalk left her position as Director of the Summer Language Workshop and faculty member of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at IU to become Project Director at the University of Maryland, College Park's School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

**Mark Trotter** has been appointed Interim Director of the IU Summer Language Workshop. He will continue to serve as the REEI Associate Director/Outreach Coordinator.

### ASEEES ANNOUNCES FIRST BOOK SUBVENTION RECIPIENTS FALL 2016

The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies is delighted to announce the recipients of the first book subvention grants for fall 2016.

Cornell University Press for Knowledge and the Ends of Empire: Kazak Intermediaries and Russian Rule on the Steppe, 1731–1917 by Ian W. Campbell (University of California-Davis)

University of Toronto Press for Beau Monde on Empire's Edge: State and Stage in Soviet Ukraine by Mayhill C. Fowler (Stetson University)

University of Wisconsin Press for Beyond the Monastery Walls: The Ascetic Revolution in Russian Orthodox Thought, 1814–1914 by Patrick Lally Michelson (Indiana University-Bloomington)

The next deadline for the ASEES First Book Subvention is February 1, 2017. For more information on the program, visit: http://www.aseees.org/programs/firstbook-subvention

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#### **ASEEES Staff**

Executive Director: Lynda Park, 412-648-9788, lypark@pitt.edu

Communications Coordinator: Mary Arnstein, 412-648-9809, newsnet@pitt.edu Membership Coordinator: Jonathon Swiderski, 412-648-9911, aseees@pitt.edu

NewsNet Editor/Program Coordinator: Andrew Behrendt, 412-648-7403, aseeesgr@pitt.edu

Convention Manager: Margaret Manges, 412-648-4049, aseeescn@pitt.edu Financial Support: Maureen Ryczaj, 412-648-4049, aseeesfn@pitt.edu

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