ASEEES NewsNet

The Implications of Our 2021 Theme:
Diversity, Intersectionality, and Interdisciplinarity

Creative Horizons:
Art in the Post-Soviet Era

Five Minutes with Archie Brown
Winner of the 2021 Pushkin House Book Prize
The Implications of Our 2021 Theme:
Diversity, Intersectionality, and Interdisciplinarity
Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College

Creative Horizons: Art in the Post-Soviet Era
Kristen Ho, Arizona State University

Five Minutes with Archie Brown, Winner of the 2021 Pushkin House Book Prize
Andrew Jack, Financial Times

Executive Director’s Annual Report
Lynda Park, ASEEES

The ASEEES Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion begins its Second Year

ASEEES Continues Career Programs in 2022

ASEEES Statement on Memorial Society

2021 ASEEES Donors
2022 ASEEES Convention Call for Papers
In Memoriam
Affiliate Group News
Winners of the 2021 Affiliate Group Prizes
Institutional Member News
Publications
2021 ASEEES DONORS
We are grateful to the following individuals and institutions who have made donations at every level to support ASEEES’ future.

$2500+
KAT Charitable Foundation
Julie Cassiday
Diane P. Koenker
Andrzej Kulczycki and Richard Kulczycki
Indira and Mark Peterson
In memory of Georgia Porter
Anu Ramaswami
In memory of Maya K. Peterson
Douglas Smith & Stephanie Ellis-Smith
Christine Worobec
In memory of Maya K. Peterson

$1,000 to $2,499
Brian J. Baer
Emily Baran
Jonathan Brunstedt
William H. Hill
Masha Kirasirova
Natalie Kononenko
In memory of James Orville Bailey, Jr.
Judith Deutsch Kornblatt
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Adele Lindenmeyr
James Ian Mandel
Eric Naiman
Alison K. Smith
Anonymous
Anonymous
In memory of Maya K. Peterson

$250–$999 In Memory of Maya K. Peterson
Nicholas Brenton Breyfogle
Kate Brown
Andy Bruno
Sarah Cameron
Ian Wylie Campbell
Pey-Yi Chu
Adrienne Lynn Edgar
Mieka Erley
Piotr H. Kosicki
Eric Lohr
Marcy McCullaugh
Julia Obertreis
Kathleen O’Neill
Karen Petrone
Also in memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Joshua A. Sanborn
Willard Sunderland
Anonymous

Up to $249
Golfo Alexopoulos
Anna A. Alsufieva
Veronica E. Aplenc
Nadezhda Azhghikina
Lois E. Beekey
In memory of Zita Dabars
Jakub Benes
Paul Alexander Bushkovitch
Catherine Ann Ciepiela
Nancy Condee
In honor of Bella Grigoryan
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Linda J. Cook
In memory of Catharine Nepomnyashchy
Laurie Essig
Alfred Burney Evans
In memory of James Orville Bailey, Jr.
Amanda Ewington
Nora Favorov
Michael S. Flier
Erica L. Fraser
Venelin Iordanov Ganev
Jehanne M. Gheith
In memory of Mary Zirin
Irina Gigova
Radmila Gorup
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Julie K. deGraffenried
Barbara Henry
Beth C. Holmgren & Mark Sidell
In memory of Jurij Striedter
Luke Jeske
Emily D. Johnson

In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Lilya Kaganovsky
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Marianne Ruth Kamp
Deborah A. Kaple
Agnes Neylufer Kefeli
Ian Kelly
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Martha M. F. Kelly
Adeeb Khalid
Valerie Ann Kivelson
Michael M. Kunichika
Carol Leff
Carol S. Lilly
Mark N. Lipovetsky
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Natalia Lusin
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Irene Ingeborg Masing-Delic
Kelly McGee
In Honor of Lisa Di Bartolomeo
Yukio Nakano
Mary A. Nicholas
Russell Eugene Parta
Kenneth Pinnow
Timothy Pogacar
Cathy Popkin
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Sarah Pratt
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild
In memory of Patricia Herlihy
Galina S. Ryulkova
Wendy R. Salmon
In memory of Anne Odom
Lewis Henry Siegelbaum
In memory of Dorothy Healey
Elizabeth Skomp
Kathleen Elizabeth Smith
Valeria Sobol
In memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Jennifer B. Spock
Elise Thorsen
Michael Tvorek
In memory of Maya K. Peterson
Carol R. Ueland
In memory of Catharine Nepomnyashchy
Lenny A. Urena Valerio
Natalia Vygovskaia
Nancy M. Wingfield
In honor of Christine Worobec
Sergei V. Zakharov
Anonymous (2)

Up to $249 In Memory of Maya K. Peterson
Neal Abraham
Alan Joseph Barenberg
Joseph Bednarek
Wilson Thorpa Bell
Joshua Berson
Melissa L. Caldwell
Motria Caudull
Choi Chatterjee
Edward Cohn
Laurel Damaske
Bathsheba Rose Demuth
Arna Desser
Anne Eakin Moss
Christine Elaine Evans
Joshua J. First
Sibelan E. S. Forrester
Cathy Anne Frierson
Jean Galbraith
Eagle Glassheim
Krista Goff
Anna Graber
Wilko Graf von Hardenberg
Bruce Grant
Jeffrey S. Hardy
Amy Hay
Julia Herzberg
Philippa Hetherington
Francine R. Hirsch
Stephen Frances Jones
Eileen Mary Kane
Tozghan Kassenova
Nancy S. Kollmann
Emily Laskin
Thomas Lekan
Anika Liepold
Thomas Lowish
Laurie Manchester
Erika L. Monahan
David G. Moon
Prasannan Parthasarathi
Michael Vincent Paulauskas
Oleksandr Polianichev
Ekaterina Pravilova
Rebekah Ramsay
Henry F. Reichman
And in memory of Reginald E. Zelnik
Aaron Benyamin Retish
George Victor Reynolds
Kristin Roth-Ey
Kevin James Rothrock
Steven Seegel
Tricia Starks
Malai Tananone
Erdenetuya Urtnast
Paul William Werth
Anna Marie Whittington
Thomas G. Zeller
Anonymous (3)

$250–$999 Up to $249
Andrey Starodubtsev
Maria Bucur
Valerie Bunce
Heather J. Coleman
Michael S. Gorham
Padraic J. Kenney
Laurence Hanson Miller
Benjamin Nathans
Olga Nedeljkovic
Robert W. Ortung
Lynda Park
Douglas Rogers
William Mills Todd III
Richard S. Wortman
Anonymous
In memory of Georgia Porter

$250–$999
In memory of Maya K. Peterson
Anonymous (2)

We are grateful to the following individuals and institutions who have made donations at every level to support ASEEES’ future.
When we decided on the theme for this year's ASEEES convention a year and change ago, of course, we had no idea that questions of diversity, equity, and inclusion in academic life would become so contested right now in the United States, along with academic freedom at every level of education. We were inspired by the impressive series of Zoom events on Race in Focus that ASEEES was helping to organize in response to Black Lives Matter; today people in our profession are continuing to arrange events, work on committees, pursue research, and propose projects that address issues of race and other issues in serious, challenging, and intellectually substantial ways. If you haven't yet read the special feature on race and bias in the Fall 2021 issue of Slavic Review, with 14 articles chosen from 60 (!) submitted abstracts, it is definitely worth your time, and please keep an eye on future numbers of the journal as well. You will quickly notice that I am not an expert on this topic, but it's too important not to take advantage of the opportunity the traditional presidential address offers to continue the ideas from the roundtable earlier today.

Diversity and intersectionality raise many questions—let's start with our students, who they are, and what we teach them. The institutions where many of us work rightly strive to attract a diverse group of students, and we want our own classes and our own fields to appeal to a wide range of that diverse group. To cite our colleague Lee Roby (who teaches at Friends School of Baltimore), students should find both “a window and a mirror” in our courses; they can learn how Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia differ from other regions of the world, gaining a new perspective on all kinds of other disciplines and issues, while at many points looking at their own lives and experiences and the workings of their own society from new angles (= the mirror: you see yourself differently). The possible components of this diversity intersect and overlap, of course, but students should be able to find a way into our topics; if they see no signs that we recognize the actual complexity of our topics, and their relationship to other things in the world, they very well might take one look and then turn away. I have often been asked why I study Russian, or South Slavic languages and cultures, given that it isn’t my ancestry. It was a chance decision, but chance is a thing we want to respond to so we can keep the students who find us through chance as well as those whose ancestry or experience stimulates their curiosity. I was lucky to emerge into the profession a year after the founding of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) (one of whose initiators, Heather Hogan, was my colleague at the first place I taught after graduate school). It is still exciting to encounter the energy of AWSS members, bringing various feminist tools to all the fields in which they work.

From the start, it is important to see the topics we choose to work on treated with respect. My doctoral dissertation was on the Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva, in whose work gender and sexuality are essential elements, and I was never told these were not worthy topics. In truth, just try telling anyone that Tsvetaeva is not a worthy topic: perhaps it was the Revolution and subsequent changes that cemented the reputations of some Russian Modernist women writers in a way that women of other places and generations did not enjoy? Moreover, maybe because the internet hadn’t yet been born and my name was gender-ambiguous, I was never dissed as a baby professor, even though I think I got carded every single time I bought a bottle of wine in Ohio. Along with our own choices, students’ interests can elicit new approaches. One who eventually majored in economics wrote a superb paper in a
first-year literature seminar, analyzing the systems and changes in money and business described and critiqued in Ivo Andrić's novel *The Bridge on the Drina*. A student majoring in psychology looked at how Dostoevsky treats female characters who have suffered sexual abuse: unlike Freud, who in other ways learned from reading him, Dostoevsky believes women, and she found a productive way to read him alongside #MeToo. Openness to a different discipline expands the students' reach, grounded in what they already know and care about.

The point here is that diverse students (like our own past selves) will bring diverse interests to their educations, and those interests can usefully update and transform what we are doing. As long as we listen to our students, they can push us to expand the material in our courses, to update our offerings, perhaps to translate materials that will respond to their needs and interests. They can ask their libraries and area studies centers to invite new speakers or collect new materials. Among our current students, I see particular passion for environmental studies, for learning about gender and sexuality, and growing interest in the former Soviet nations of Central Asia, though they are interested in many other things as well, especially race. In the literature courses I teach, students want to see women authors, queer authors, and authors who are themselves from diverse backgrounds; they want these authors not as tokens but integrated into the syllabus, though they're happy to go read a specialized study to get more after discovering Mikhail Kuzmin or Sophia Parnok in a survey course. They know that reality has never been monochrome, and if my students don't see these authors on the syllabus they'll ask where they are hiding. When they reach the point of choosing paper or thesis topics, and then jobs or fields of graduate study with further thesis topics or else paths into other professions, our students' interests break new ground in the questions we consider. Thus, students bring the discussion full circle: by pushing for a diverse curriculum and then, some of them, becoming the scholars who make it happen. Where are the women's voices, the queer voices, the non-Russians, Buddhists or Jews, Koreans in Kazakhstan? How do groups adopt new languages for various kinds of advantage or participate in cultural, economic, literary, or political projects? What are the ethnic and linguistic mixes of various zones of Eastern Europe and how has that changed over time? And then, on the other hand, how does political transformation, new film technique, a folktale or musical riff, religious proselytizing, environmental damage, neo-fascist agitation, or radiation spread across the borders that we often use to organize our knowledge?

As I was saying, diverse students become diverse faculty and also other members of our profession, as some of our students decide to work in study abroad or career advising, attend graduate school in order to enter our profession, or to work in government service or alt-academic fields such as library science, museums, or publishing. But (and it's an important "but") today's students can't bring this growing diversity quickly enough for those of us who are ensconced in comfortable stability to sit there without responding and making changes—be it in our own research, in the choice of topics and sources we choose to teach, the study abroad themes we organize, or the lectures and other events we arrange. (See, we can invite a speaker; we don't have to do it all ourselves.)

Recently on a mailing list I follow there was a complaint that the racial diversity our institutions track and strive for is irrelevant for research on Slavs, who are supposedly all white. Leaving aside the intentions of that kind of complaint, the assertion is overly simplistic: are we interested only in some idealized unmixed ethnic group with an idealized unmixed language, history, and culture, or do we study the actual living nations and regions on which our organization focuses? Do I have to

“The point here is that diverse students (like our own past selves) will bring diverse interests to their educations, and those interests can usefully update and transform what we are doing.”
mention Pushkin again to make people like that stop and think? Reading the discussion, I recalled a story I heard in Croatia: a middle-aged professor described once hearing a pleasant youthful voice behind him, speaking perfect Kajkavian (a dialect of Croatian spoken in the hills outside Zagreb, not taught in universities to the likes of me, though an embedded anthropologist could certainly perfect it). The professor turned to look and saw a Black woman speaking: Kajkavski was her mother tongue, while her father was from Africa. The professor was struck that she was more part of “the folk” than he was. There are multiple ethnicities in any of the societies we study—do we exclude them to focus only on the Slavs, or the Magyars, or whatever the members of the titular nationality? Ideally our research will feed into our teaching (and the teaching of our colleagues), while at the same time our teaching should stimulate our expanding research, especially if we listen to what our students ask and want to know. Some of their questions may reveal that they have no idea about the basic terms of what we work on, but simple questions could have more sophisticated implications. As our own specialized topics home in on very specific times, places, issues, and individuals, we must keep in mind the larger context. This organization’s broad focus on area studies encourages us and grants us opportunities to seek the answers to questions that extend outside our own particular specialization, and our convention, our journal, and other ventures make this much less effortful, whether or not we try to pursue new areas of expertise ourselves. And to be honest, if there’s any point in people outside the region doing this work, or in people from the region coming to North America to study or teach, then there’s the same point to all the various perspectives we and our diverse students can bring to this work.

As we know, the Eurasian region addressed by ASEEES is as diverse as North America, and students and scholars are finding new ways to approach important questions. One question is how race is identified and described, particularly as viewed in its intersections with other markers of identity. These questions have arisen in the past as well as the present. Archeology, folklore, and historical research can lead to all kinds of fascinating information from the past. Let me tell you, students respond with warm interest to research on witches by Valerie Kivelson and Christine Worobec! (A topic that naturally points to gender studies, but that intersects strongly with class and with the economic impacts of serfdom.) The late Maya Peterson’s work on environmental issues and especially water in Soviet Central Asia has impacted understanding of those issues in deep and productive ways. We know that Nazi theorists drew on earlier racist publications from the United States—meanwhile, Jennifer Wilson’s research has shown that abolitionist texts from the United States were read and translated in the early nineteenth century by Russians who opposed serfdom, and Amanda Bellows’s 2020 book compares representations of slavery and serfdom produced in later decades, from 1861 to 1905. (And you may already know that the word “slave” descends etymologically from the word “Slav”—looking further into the past.) Colleagues in the Russian Federation are of course aware of racism as it is manifested there now (again, it is instructive to compare to structures of racism and definitions of race in other societies). Those of us who have been in the field for a while may recall when Middlebury closed their study abroad program in Voronezh after a student was beaten up in a park by the local skinheads. Colleagues at an institution I won’t name, though it’s located considerably to the East of Voronezh, have encouraged me to send students there for study abroad, pointing out that they don’t have skinheads but do have numerous students with Asian ancestry from within the Russian Federation, as well as students from abroad who feel comfortable and safe as they walk around the city.

What I say here is already tending toward a vector that reaches through diversity toward interdisciplinarity. If we bring our own full complexity as human beings situated in a certain time and place, shaped by family and personal histories but also attentive to possible future trajectories in our studies, our scholarship, and our teaching, then we need the tools of various disciplines to get what we need. We need access to the whole wealth of ASEEES.

Interdisciplinarity recognizes and leverages the value of disciplines, their standards, the materials they recognize, and the tools they develop. If we want to do the job right, especially in education, we must be aware of the other disciplines and find ways to reach across those boundaries. Perhaps people who work in any Slavic literature are lucky: we’ve always known that historical background is essential to understanding literary discourse in our region of study. Philosophical and political discussions have often taken place in works of literature because other realms of discourse were censored, or due to the lack of a parliamentary culture. Historians, in my experience at least,
often ask their students to read literary works (in translation) in their courses, for instance to get a feeling for Stalinist repression: think Lidia Chukovskaya’s *Sofya Petrovna*, or Danilo Kiš’s *Tomb for Boris Davidovich*. It may be that all the cultures we study have been more open than most anglophone societies to recognizing and studying the ways local cultures are related to more distant ones—at least, if the more distant ones are Western European: that means strong programs in comparative literature and sophisticated study of the impact of translation of literature, philosophy, and cultural or political theory. What, too, is the history of anti-racism work in the socialist bloc, which you hardly ever see called “the second world,” unlike the first and the third. In some places we can already draw on established interdisciplinary practice (especially in the inherently interdisciplinary practices of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the decades-long work of AWSS as an affiliate organization, but also in the more recent field of Environmental Studies and others). While we reach across borders and learn from other fields as they develop and emerge, pay special attention to our younger colleagues in the field, who are doing awesome work. On that note I’ve been thrilled to see the number of good jobs in language and literature advertised so far this fall: not only jobs in Russian, but in Polish, in Ukrainian! If you’ve been following these posts, writing letters of recommendation, or assembling your own application, you’ve probably noticed that the institutions are seeking exactly this: interdisciplinarity combined with new approaches to topics old and new. This both shows a response to exciting developments—and puts much of the burden for keeping our field up to date on the newest colleagues. ASEEES, with its intentional multi-disciplinarity, should step up to support and advance scholarly work as well as teaching of this kind. And it is incumbent on the senior colleagues (hiring committees, outside reviewers, tenure committees, and mentors of new hires) to recognize and support this kind of work.

Attention to complexity and interconnection is especially important now, as many of the societies we study are turning away from the supposed triumph of democracy after 1991, as the political and media landscape of the United States is increasingly contested (with some figures, I swear, employing lessons learned from the great years of totalitarianism and state control of discourse), and as our own positions in various institutions are made less secure by attacks on academic freedom, and by what looks like a societal conspiracy to tell students that studying the humanities and even the social sciences is a big waste of time. It leads me to wonder: in whose interest would it be if fewer people studied, taught about, and understood Slavic, East European and Eurasian cultures?

Having mentioned younger colleagues, I slip toward the issue of precarity, which is the theme of next year’s ASEEES convention in Chicago. Thank you for your attention to this talk, and I hope to see you there!

Sibelan Forrester is Susan W. Lippincott Professor of Modern and Classical Languages and Russian at Swarthmore College, and was ASEEES President in 2021. Her scholarly and teaching specialties include Russian poetry, women’s and gender studies, folklore, and theory and practice of translation.
ASEEES 54th Annual Convention
October 13-14, 2022 • Virtual Convention
November 10-13, 2022 • Chicago, IL
Theme: Precarity
2022 ASEEES President: Joan Neuberger,
Earl E. Sheffield Regents Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin

We are now accepting proposal submissions for
the 2022 ASEEES Convention with the deadline of
March 1. We plan to host an in-person convention
in Chicago in November following a smaller virtual
convention in October. In the proposal submission
process, you will be presented with an option
to apply to either the in-person or the virtual
convention. The number of sessions for the virtual
convention will be limited. We acknowledge that
circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic
continue to evolve and sympathize with possible
health, travel, and financial restrictions of our
members. However, we are unable to accommodate
the option to move from an in-person to virtual or
virtual to in-person format in 2022 due to the severe
scheduling challenges we faced during the 2021
Convention. We thank you for understanding this
constraint when submitting proposals. ASEEES will
be carefully monitoring the conditions and best
practices and will make adjustments as necessary to
ensure the health and well-being of our attendees.

All session participants must agree to participate in
person or virtually. Hybrid sessions during the in-
person convention will not be permitted. Technical
requirements for hybrid sessions at the in-person
convention venue are prohibitively expensive.

Accepting proposals for:
• Panels
• Roundtables
• Book Discussion Roundtables
• Lightning Rounds
• Individual Papers
  Individual Lightning Round Presentation
• Proposals
  Film Screenings
• Affiliate Group Meeting Requests

Deadlines:
Panels, papers, roundtables, lightning rounds: March 1, 2022
Film screening submissions and affiliate group meeting: April 1

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL
In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world. At the Melikian Center, even as our plans for in-person programming fell apart, we wanted to find ways to stay connected to our community and to keep them connected to Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies. The disruption propelled us to address an urgent issue facing our field: the need to create programming that is relevant to both scholars in the field and a wider audience. One outcome of our efforts to meet this need has been Creative Horizons: Art in the Post-Soviet Era. An ongoing online collaboration between the Melikian Center at Arizona State University, the Havighurst Center at Miami University, Ohio and the University of South Florida’s Institute on Russia, the Creative Horizons series brings the work of artists from across the post-Soviet region to the public.

This series introduces audiences to each artist through an interview produced by videographer Ari Gajraj. This interview is made available ahead of a live, online discussion moderated by an expert from one of the three universities. Thanks to the magic of the internet, we travel seamlessly between Arizona, Ohio, and Florida—and on to Russia, Belarus, Hungary, Ukraine, and the U.K. Our featured artists, united under the umbrella term of “post-Soviet,” create within a wide range of perspectives and forms. To give you an idea of the kinds of topics we explore in the Creative Horizons series, two of the artists, animator Ermina Takenova and writer Kateryna Babkina, agreed to be interviewed for this issue of NewsNet.

**Ermina Takenova**

Ermina Takenova is a London-based animator and illustrator from Almaty, Kazakhstan. Takenova researches Kazakh culture and folklore to create digital art pieces which explore contemporary issues. The title of her 2019 animated short film, *Mankurt*, is representative of her cultural explorations: “mankurt” is a figure from Turkic mythology, an unthinking slave created through torture. Many became familiar with the mankurt via Chingiz Aitmatov’s popular novel, *The Day Lasts More than a Hundred Years*. “Mankurt” has a second meaning relevant to Takenova’s work as a diasporic artist who feels disconnected from Kazakh traditions due to Soviet policies of Russification: a mankurt refers to a person who is uninterested in their own culture and history. During the 2019 election protests and subsequent repressions in Kazakhstan, Takenova created social media art in solidarity with the protestors.

Why did you decide to create Kazakh art, and how has this act of creation shaped your relationship with your culture?

I wouldn’t call what I do Kazakh art specifically, as traditional Kazakh art is mainly rooted in craft practices. I’d say my art is deeply inspired by...
Kazakh culture, history, mythology, traditional craft and the nomadic way of life. I think I just personally communicate with the world, people, and even myself best through my art, and naturally it also became a tool for me to reconnect with my own roots and culture. Creating illustrations based on Kazakh culture and folklore helps me better digest the information about it and makes it easier for me to share what I learn with more people, as I think art is a powerful and engaging educational tool.

You mentioned that you worry about the authenticity of your art. For instance, you describe the Kazakhstan you grew up in as Russified and even colonized. Yet, much of your work draws from Kazakh folklore. Do you see yourself as someone who is building a new Kazakh culture?

I always try to be aware and careful not to self-orientalize, so authenticity and honesty are very important to me. I want to be open about the environment I grew up in and the sense of detachment I had from many parts of my own culture due to some aspects of that environment. I strongly desire to reconnect with my roots and that’s one of the main drives of my practice. I think moving away from my home country made me realize the importance of having a cultural identity and I want to rebuild the part of my identity that I feel was taken from me. Personally, I see my identity as being very layered and I want to embrace every part of it. I feel an important step to reconnect with my Kazakh roots is to face and openly discuss the devastating effects of colonization. I’ve been lucky to have family members who inspired me and made me feel proud to be Kazakh and who cherished this respect towards our culture. My grandfather Abu Takenov was a historian and he was the only surviving child of my great-grandparents, who lost eight of their children during the famine. Thankfully, he had a strong influence on my father Zharas, who passed on a lot of knowledge and sparked an interest in Kazakh history in me. My parents also often addressed facing racism in the Soviet Union. So I think I grew up with a lot of awareness of the cultural repression and racism being present in the Soviet Union and I feel that was one of the many reasons I eventually got drawn to a decolonial discourse.

I’m very inspired by Kazakhstan’s art community and I’m learning a lot from its members. I think up until the events of 2019 in Kazakhstan, I wasn’t very aware of the art scene there. Then, after I started drawing political illustrations and posting them on social media, I ended up connecting with a lot of wonderful creative people from my country, some of whom became my collaborators. I think we are all building a new identity and I feel it’s actively shaping up thanks to the creative and politically involved people. For a culture like ours, that has experienced the destructiveness of colonialism, I wonder if the act of revival and reconnection inevitably means building a new culture anyway. Also, many people who contribute to the education on our culture grew up more connected to it than I did, and it’s absolutely amazing to learn from them. I don’t know how big my contribution to the creation of a new Kazakh identity is, but personally my aim is to firstly educate myself and then to relay what I learn outside of Kazakhstan too.

From what I see, I think the younger generation is bringing another breath of fresh air to the decolonization movement and they’re keeping a lot of discussions active. As many imperfections and downsides social media has, I think it is still a powerful tool to amplify voices talking about decolonization – because globally the Western mainstream media would not provide a platform for those voices – and due to eurocentrism, more credibility is given to Western platforms. I personally feel like I’m also learning a lot from Native American social media influencers and I see some resemblances in our struggles and the desire to revive and popularize our cultures that have been suppressed for so long. I think a lot of this discourse worldwide is driven by creativity, and I want to utilize my own skills to be a part of this discussion.

Your film short *Mankurt* is based on Turkic legend and alludes to Chingiz Aimatov’s *A Day Lasts More than a Hundred Years*, while your art is very stylized. What do the medium of digital art and your modern, grotesque style bring to your explorations of Kazakh tradition?

I strongly believe that any culture doesn’t have to be static and stagnant. I think we should allow flexibility for our culture to move along with the times. That’s why I feel very comfortable mixing folklore with contemporary issues, as well as going for a more surreal and grotesque imagery. I often deal with heavy subjects in my art and hence my visual language tends to be on the darker side. Also the Turkic / Kazakh mythological realm has grotesque elements in it originally and it’s a huge source of inspiration for me, as it feeds my love for surreal art.
**Kateryna Babkina**

Kateryna Babkina is a Ukrainian writer and former journalist whose art traces the shadow that Ukraine’s complicated and at times unpleasant past creates in the present. Her work touches on themes such as intergenerational trauma, anti-Semitism, and life in a country undergoing an armed conflict. Babkina is a prolific writer who has published novels, poetry, short story collections, screenplays, and children’s books. Her 2019 collection of short stories, *My Grandfather Danced Better than Anyone Else*, recently won the 2021 Angelus Central European Literature Award.

Out of all the artists in our Creative Horizons series so far, you are the only one who has devoted so much of your interview to promoting your compatriots’ work. In your interview, you stated that, “Nobody translates from Ukrainian, so if you write in Ukrainian, your chances to become known and published somewhere abroad are close to zero.” How does your art respond to this inaccessibility of Ukrainian art to the wider world?

I try to speak up about Ukraine, and about Ukrainian literature. I try to use all my chances to represent my writing and the writing of other Ukrainian people. I gladly participate in festivals and workshops and always volunteer. I do whatever I can do; I write articles, I lecture, I write about Ukraine, and I try to write well so that people get interested in Ukrainian literature. Through my writing they also become open to this literature and to Ukrainian art in general.

**You are a prolific writer with works in many genres. Where does the inspiration for your work come from, and does your creative approach change based on your genre?**

The inspiration for my work comes from life, comes from people, and from how they transform their experiences, their past, their feelings, their traumas, their everything into something new that they carry on in the future. This is the most exciting thing about life, I would say: how people change and how they change the world. I don’t think this creative approach shifts based on different genres, because in different forms you can still talk about the same things and about the same ideas, so this is what I do, whatever it is, be it a film screen or a book for children. I’m really, really fascinated by people, different people, their stories, their experiences, and their emotions, and this is what I want to talk about and to show to other people as my stories, as many different experiences and as many different outcomes as I can so people understand each other more.

**Many of your works portray contemporary Ukrainians grappling with past and ongoing upheavals such as the Second World War and the Holocaust, or the current conflict in eastern Ukraine. What happens when you transform these ongoing traumas into literature?**

Literature happens. Story happens. Life happens, and other people who are readers are invited to share this experience, so they become hopefully more thoughtful, more understanding, more caring, or at least they think wider and they know more. That’s what happens, I think.

The Creative Horizons videos featuring Takenova and Babkina can be viewed online here: [https://melikian.asu.edu/projects-and-initiatives/ creative-horizons](https://melikian.asu.edu/projects-and-initiatives/ creative-horizons).
Archie Brown is Emeritus Professor of Politics at the University of Oxford, a Fellow of the British Academy, and an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His latest book, *The Human Factor* (2021), is the winner of the ninth annual Pushkin House Prize.

Editor’s note: This interview, by Andrew Jack, was first published on the Pushkin House website.

**What explains your interest in Russia?**

It came about by pure chance. I was in my final year at LSE doing a broad social science degree, specializing in politics (in particular) and economics. I wanted to write an essay on Soviet politics so that I’d be able to answer a question on it in the Comparative Government exam paper. My tutor, a specialist on British politics, said he was not qualified to judge it, so he gave it to Leonard Schapiro, the author of a major book on the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He liked my essay and encouraged me to apply for a graduate studentship in Russian political studies. I had to start learning Russian from scratch aged 24. It wasn’t because I had a fascination with Russia at that time and I was certainly never attracted to Communism, but I became keenly interested and don’t regret the path my career took.

**What drew you to studying Gorbachev?**

I’ve been studying political leadership for a very long time and followed Mikhail Gorbachev’s career especially closely. I got a head start 42 years ago in a conversation I had with Zdeněk Mlynář, the main author of the radically reformist 1968 Action Programme of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia whom I had first met in Prague in 1965. When Mlynář, who was in political exile, spent a month in Oxford in June 1979, I learned from him that he had been a close friend of Gorbachev when they studied together in the Law Faculty of Moscow State University. I asked whether he thought Gorbachev had an open mind. His response was that this youngest member of the top Soviet leadership team was “open-minded, intelligent, and anti-Stalinist.” So, I took a special interest in Gorbachev from that time on. Because of my good relations with Mlynář, who didn’t go public on his friendship with a rising Soviet politician until Gorbachev had become Soviet leader in 1985, I was aware earlier than others that he was likely to be a reform-minded General Secretary, a position that, from late 1980 onwards, I increasingly believed he would attain.
What distinguishes this book from your previous ones on Russia?

Most of what I’d written in the past was about the Soviet political system and, even when I began to publish extensively on its transformation under Gorbachev, I was more focused on the domestic sphere than on foreign policy. This book is the only one I’ve written which is primarily on international relations and the making of foreign policy – and in the USA and UK as well as the USSR. Domestic considerations play a huge part in foreign policy in the United States, and they did in the Soviet Union as well. More specifically, I looked at the evolution of the thinking of the top leaders, Gorbachev, Reagan and Thatcher, and at the significance of their interrelationship.

What are your key findings?

Among them is the importance of engagement. It was extremely significant that Reagan and Thatcher moved away from the view that the less they had to do with the “evil empire,” the better. International contacts across the East-West divide between leaders, officials and experts in different fields were very important. Even in Brezhnev’s time, some senior Soviet officials and specialists from policy-oriented research institutes (such as IMEMO and the Institute of USA and Canada) visited Western countries and were influenced by what they saw. Gorbachev’s short visits to West European countries, including not least to the UK in December 1984, as well as to Canada in 1983, made a big impression on him. And Alexander Yakovlev, a very important member of Gorbachev’s top leadership team, reassessed his previous political beliefs very radically during the 10 years he spent as ambassador in Canada. These are merely the two most important examples. The significance of such transnational interactions has been underestimated in most International Relations analyses of the end of the Cold War. Another key point: while there was laudable attention paid in Western mass media to Soviet overt dissidents, there was a failure to understand the extent and profundity of the diversity of opinion that lay behind the monolithic façade the ruling Communist Party presented to its own people and the outside world. That became apparent to Western governments, and even to many specialists, only when the differences came out into the open in the second half of the 1980s.

How important was Gorbachev’s own role?

Only rarely does an individual leader make a fundamental difference. Gorbachev was such a leader. Ronald Reagan was an essential partner in the ending of the Cold War, and Margaret Thatcher played a significant supporting role, for she was Reagan’s favorite foreign leader by far and the one with most influence over him. More surprisingly, she established a strong and constructive relationship with Gorbachev. But it was the profound change in both Soviet domestic and foreign policy wrought by Gorbachev that was most crucial for ending the Cold War. I disagree strongly with the view that he was forced into such radical reforms or that any Soviet leader would have had to do what he did. The economic determinist argument about the end of the Cold War falls flat. The Soviet economy was not in good shape, to put it mildly, but it’s hard to say economic necessity forced his hand, for Gorbachev quite soon gave much higher priority to political than economic reforms. He didn’t embrace a market economy in principle until 1990 and the transition from command to market economy had still not happened when the Soviet Union ceased to exist at the end of 1991. The political reforms don’t fit into the economic determinist interpretation for, while they made Russia a vastly freer country, the economy went from bad to worse. It was in limbo – no longer an effective command economy but not yet a market economy. I disagree also with the triumphalist view that it was the Reagan administration’s military build-up that led the Soviet Union to admit defeat and accept that they couldn’t keep up. That’s quite a widespread view but a strange argument. Until the early 1970s the US had definite military superiority over the Soviet Union. Yet Communism, with Soviet support, expanded during the 1950s and 1960s. If we go back to the second half of the 1940s, the US had a monopoly of nuclear weapons, but that was the very time when the Soviet Union established Communist regimes in East-Central Europe. By contrast, in the mid-1980s there was a rough military parity between the US and the USSR. Each side had the capacity to annihilate the other. The Soviet military-industrial complex had a strong interest in the continuation of the Cold War, and they were especially strongly opposed to any
unilateral concessions. It took great political skill on Gorbachev’s part to outmaneuver them. His own values and evolving political beliefs were of decisive importance for the dramatic change which took place.

**How would you describe the leadership styles of Gorbachev, Reagan, and Thatcher?**

I don’t focus only on the person at the top of the hierarchy. Leadership is important but it’s not only the top leader that counts. This is especially clear in Reagan’s case. He gave people in his administration wide leeway providing they were broadly in line with his outlook. His administration was deeply divided, and it was hugely significant that Reagan supported the pro-engagement stance of his Secretary of State George Shultz in the face of Defense Department opposition and CIA skepticism about any good coming out of negotiations with the Soviet Union. I define a strong leader as one who concentrates maximum power in his or her own hands and tries to take the big decisions in every area of policy. For some commentators, ‘strong leader’ is a synonym for ‘good’ leader, but that is seriously misleading. Reagan’s remoteness from decision-making in most areas of policy made him the furthest away of the three heads of government from being a strong leader. He did, however, pay particular attention to relations with the Soviet Union. Thatcher was the only one of the three who was clearly a strong leader in my sense. She wished to have the last word on everything, and she distrusted the Foreign Office. Gorbachev was more collegial and ready to deploy his powers of persuasion rather than rule by fiat. I regard him as a transformational leader, and I set the bar high for that: somebody who plays a decisive role in systemic change. That category includes Deng Xiaoping for his fundamental reform of the Chinese economic system. Gorbachev would get few plaudits for Soviet economic performance in the perestroika years, but his leadership was transformational for the Soviet political system and foreign policy.

**How did you carry out your research?**

I did a lot of archival work using declassified British sources, Politburo transcripts, materials in the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow, and in American archives. I’ve also acquired over the years a large collection of Russian, British, and American political memoirs. Interviews and numerous conversations with people who were involved in policy-making in the three countries have been invaluable. There is a vast quantity of essential material in the Reagan Presidential Library archives, I did research there at the same time as Jack Matlock, the US ambassador to Moscow from 1987 to 1991 and, before that, Reagan’s top adviser on the Soviet Union within the National Security Council. So, during the day I was reading, among other documents, his memoranda and telegrams and then discussing these and related matters with him over a meal in the evenings.

**What is your view on the Russian reaction to Gorbachev?**

I think over time Gorbachev will be re-evaluated much more positively. The current view of most Russians does not do him anything like justice. What many forget is that, as we know from reliable survey data, during his first five years Gorbachev was the most popular public figure both in Russia and in the USSR as a whole. It was as late as May-June 1990 that Yeltsin overtook him. In the post-Soviet era, Yeltsin and his team disparaged Gorbachev and gave him and those who thought well of him very limited access to TV. They have had even less opportunity to give their side of the story to a large Russian audience in the first two decades of the present century. Putin wants strict top-down control, and he blames Gorbachev for losing it. For Putin and those around him, political pluralism, involving separation of powers and competitive elections with unpredictable outcomes, equals loss of control. Russia’s experience of dispersed power has been short-lived. There is a tradition of looking to a leader who will rule with a strong hand. Gorbachev’s tolerance was, by his last two years in office, seen by many as weakness. He is particularly blamed by Russians for the breakup of the Soviet Union, though he sought to preserve a different kind of union through negotiation rather than coercion.

**What lessons do you draw for Western political relations with Russia today?**

Demonization of Russia doesn’t make much political sense. However much in the West we may disapprove of political developments, Russia today is not as highly authoritarian as
was the pre-perestroika Soviet Union, yet even then it was possible to come together on matters of mutual interest such as the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty. There were people at that time who thought it was very dangerous to speak to the Soviet leadership, that we were lowering our guard. But the engagement was invaluable. That’s true today as well. It’s never been the case that isolating Russia has made it more liberal. However, it’s not only Russians who benefit from such interaction. We need it, too. It would be a big advance if more people in the West, especially those in government, better understood how policies they regard as unexceptionable are perceived in Russia. If foreign policy is fashioned primarily to impress domestic public opinion and the best-organized lobbying groups, it should not be a big surprise if it is interpreted very differently in the country towards which the policy is directed.

What plans do you have for another book?

I’ve got a few ideas and have not yet decided which to pursue. I’m in my 80s so if I don’t make up my mind soon, it will be too late! One possible project is on Soviet studies: a look at what we got right and what we got wrong.
In Memoriam

Murray Feshbach
(1929-2019)

Murray Feshbach died on October 25, 2019 at age 90. Feshbach was born in New York in 1929. He received a B.A. in history from Syracuse University, an M.A. in European diplomatic history from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in economics from American University.

He worked from 1957-1981 with the U.S. Census Bureau as an expert on the demography of the Soviet Union and its health care crises. Murray was a Kennan Institute Fellow in 1979-1980, and the author of the Kennan Institute's first Occasional Paper. He continued his research at Georgetown. After Feshbach's retirement in 2000, he was Professor Emeritus in Georgetown's CERES and Research Professor in the Department of Demography. He also returned to the Kennan Institute as a Senior Scholar.

Feshbach was an AAASS/ASEEES member for almost 30 years, during which time he served as AAASS's Board President in 1985 and received the Distinguished Contributions award in 2000.

William Selden Hamilton
(1941-2021)

William “Billy” Selden Hamilton, died on October 9, 2021. He was a Professor of Slavic Languages and Linguistics and spent nearly three decades as Assistant Dean of the College at Wake Forest University.

Hamilton was born in Cincinnati, OH, on December 11, 1941 and earned each of his three degrees from Yale University. From 1970 to 1982, he taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Hamilton's graduate work took longer than usual because he spent most of a year playing with a professional Bluegrass band. Hamilton had a natural ease with languages and many instruments. He spoke Russian, Czech, Polish, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, German, Dutch, French, some Italian, some Old English, and a touch of Gaelic and to have played banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, piano, bass, zither, dulcimer, trumpet, saxophone, and bugle. This skill meant he could walk into a Soviet police station or an Irish pub and immediately make friends.

He took several forays behind the Iron Curtain, from his dissertation research in Czechoslovakia in 1968, where he witnessed the Soviet invasion firsthand, to WFU-sponsored trips until 2000. He earned numerous awards, including a teaching award at SUNY Buffalo and the American Council on Education Fellowship in 1981–82. He won the 2021 Jon Reinhardt Award for Distinguished Teaching at Wake Forest, a fitting capstone to his long career. His 1980 book, Introduction to Russian Phonology and Word Structure, is still being used in Russian courses around the country.

Hamilton not only taught language and linguistics, but he also taught many musicians. He won the CBC Bluegrass Championship in Canada in 1974. Hamilton was a member of Wake Forest’s Unbroken Circle.

Kolsti continued his studies at Harvard in Slavic Languages and Literatures through the Ph.D. He developed his interests in folklore and the oral tradition, particularly in the Balkans. Kolsti’s scholarship, The Bilingual Singer: A Study of Albanian and Serbo-Croatian Oral Epic Traditions is regarded as the authoritative source on the epic tradition for this region. He continued working on this subject to his last days, translating and editing the volume Albanian Songs and Ballads, works collected by Albert Lord in North Albania in 1937.

From 1966 to 2007, Kolsti taught across the spectrum of courses and disciplines offered in the Slavic Department. With each research trip, publication, and conference, Kolsti applied any new material or information he uncovered to the content of his classes. Because of his expertise with the whole of the Balkan region, he contributed to Center events and designed new courses that emerged from his research.

UT-Austin recognized Kolsti’s teaching in 1989 with the Harry Ransom Teaching Excellence Award. His dedication was recognized in the fall of 2007 with the University’s highest teaching accolade: induction into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Deborah Anne Martinsen
(1954-2021)

Deborah Anne Martinsen, Associate Dean of Alumni Education and alumna of the Columbia University Department of Slavic Languages (PhD 1989), died on November 28, 2021.

Martinsen leaves behind a corpus of books, including Surprised by Shame: Dostoevsky’s Liars and Narrative Exposure (2003), which was translated into Russian in 2011. Together with Olga Maiorova, she coedited Dostoevsky in Context (Cambridge University Press.) In

Active in the International Dostoevsky Society from her graduate school days on, Martinsen served as its President from 2007 to 2013. She created a community of Dostoevsky scholars that was international and intergenerational.

Her second focus was Nabokov studies. Her “Lolita as a Petersburg Text” won the award for the best essay published in Nabokov Studies in 2016. Martinsen served on countless dissertation committees and enlivened the discussion at both departmental and Harriman Institute events.

Martinsen began teaching Literature Humanities at Columbia when still a graduate student. In the decades that followed, she carried on teaching, trained others, and served as Associate Dean of the Core Curriculum. She worked to ensure that the tradition of the Columbia Core continues and evolves. In 2011, she received the Wm. Theodore de Bary Award for Distinguished Service to the Core Curriculum. In her work as Associate Dean of Alumni Education, she brought alumni back to their intellectual roots in the Core and masterminded ways for them to renew their love of learning, including an online reading group devoted to Boccaccio’s Decameron.

William Wagner
(1950-2021)

William G. Wagner, an historian of modern Russia at Williams College, died on September 12, 2021 at the age of 71.

Wagner was born on May 28, 1950. At Haverford College, he played on the varsity football team and designed his own major in Russian Studies. Haverford subsequently formalized the major.

He earned a B.Phil. in Russian and East European Studies from Oxford University in 1974. In 1981, he earned his D.Phil. in Modern History, with a concentration on pre-revolutionary Russia, from Oxford. His doctoral thesis led to the publication of his first book, Marriage, Property, and Law in Late Imperial Russia, which was awarded the Barbara Heldt Prize for Best Book in Women’s Slavic Studies in 1995.

Wagner was the author and editor of a number of books and articles. His most recent scholarship focused on women and the interrelationship between religion and modernity in Imperial and early Soviet Russia. In particular, a study of a convent of Orthodox nuns in Nizhnii Novgorod, was pioneering in the field of social history. His work was supported by grants from the NEH, ACLS, and the International Research and Exchanges Board. He was a Research Lecturer at Christ Church College, Oxford, a Senior Associate Member of St. Antony’s College, Oxford, and a Visiting Scholar at the Harvard Divinity School.

Wagner joined the history faculty at Williams in 1980. For 37 years, he served as a faculty member, college leader, a scholar, and community member. He served as Chair of the History Department, Assistant Dean of the College, Director of the Williams-Exeter Program at Oxford, and chaired a number of college committees.

In 2009, while serving as Dean of the Faculty, he was appointed Interim President, during which time he navigated the financial downturn without resorting to layoffs. After stepping down as Interim President, he resumed responsibilities as Dean of the Faculty, followed by a return to the History Department, teaching, and research. In 2018, Wagner retired, taking emeritus status, when he completed a book on the Orthodox Sisters.
AATSEEL Book Prize Shortlist

The AATSEEL book prize committee announces the titles shortlisted for the 2021 AATSEEL book awards. The finalists will be announced during the upcoming annual AATSEEL conference, in-person in Philadelphia, PA, February 17-20, 2022.

AWSS Hybrid Conference

Theme: Gender, Power, Violence in the Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Regions
Date: March 31-April 2, 2022
The Association for Women in Slavic Studies welcomes paper proposals from scholars engaged in research on the role of gender in understanding acts of violence, including epistemological and discursive violence, and the power dynamics of gender in the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian regions. We seek paper submissions that will discuss the breadth of gender-based violence which may include examples from war, ethnic and racial conflicts, displacement, state policies, domestic and sexual abuse, trafficking, suppression of LGBTQ+ identities, and violence emanating from other contexts.

The conference is hosted by the Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at ASU. The conference will be conducted as a hybrid event and will accept papers from participants who wish to attend virtually. Early career scholars, contingent faculty, and independent scholars will be prioritized for limited travel funds. The Melikian Center will cover the cost of all meals.

All submissions are expected to be in English; however, session organizers may opt for their sessions to be conducted entirely in Polish. Please note whether you wish to participate in person or only virtually. To submit a proposal, send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at pmd639[at]h.harvard.edu. The deadline for proposals is now March 1, 2022.

PIASA 8th World Congress

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite proposals for its 8th World Congress to be held in hybrid form, hosted by the University of Bialystok, Poland, June 10-12, 2022.

Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. The general theme of the conference is "Borderlands (Pogranicza)," for which Bialystok, a city on Poland’s present-day eastern frontier adjacent to Poland’s historic borderlands (kresy), with its own distinctive multicultural past, is a most appropriate setting. Proposal that address the multiethnic and contested nature of borderlands, realms where the mixing and unmixing of populations and cultures have occurred are encouraged. Papers need not focus specifically on Poland or Polish themes. Similarly, sessions including presenters from more than one country are encouraged.

All submissions are expected to be in English; however, session organizers may opt for their sessions to be conducted entirely in Polish. Please note whether you wish to participate in person or only virtually. To submit a proposal, send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at pmd639[at]h.harvard.edu. The deadline for proposals is now March 1, 2022.

26th Annual ASN World Convention

The ASN World Convention, sponsored by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, will be held May 4-7, 2022. It will have a significant online component and may also be held partly in-person if the public health guidelines allow it.

The first day (Wednesday May 4) will take place entirely online. The following three days (May 5-7) may be held both online and in person – or entirely online.

All presenters will need to register and purchase/renew their ASN membership in order to take part in the Convention.

While most of the panels will be structured around presentations based on written papers, there will also be book panels, roundtables, poster sessions, film screenings and special events. ASN will also present a number of awards.
Midwest Slavic Conference

The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University (OSU) Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (CSEES) are pleased to announce the 2022 Midwest Slavic Conference to be held at OSU in Columbus, OH on April 1-3, 2022. The conference committee invites proposals for papers on all topics related to the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian world, particularly those that explore issues surrounding climate change: the usage and depletion of natural resources, environmental changes, as well as issues surrounding the changing climates in politics, society, and culture (eco-criticism, eco-poetics, etc.). The conference theme of climate change will naturally tie some conversations to the present and future, but we welcome investigations of the past as well, in addition to papers that do not align with the theme.

The conference will open on Friday with a keynote address by Dr. Ian Helfant (Colgate U), followed by a plenary on Saturday morning. Panels by conference participants will then commence on Saturday and Sunday.

Send a one-paragraph abstract and a brief C.V. in a single PDF to cseees@osu.edu by Friday, January 28. Students are encouraged to participate. Interdisciplinary work and pre-formed panels are encouraged. Proposals for individual papers will be accepted.

More information is available on the Conference website. The Midwest Slavic Conference is organized by the Midwest Slavic Association and the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at Ohio State. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email cseees@osu.edu or call (614) 292-8770.

Southern Conference on Slavic Studies

After a two-year postponement, the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies will be holding its next meeting in Richmond, Virginia from February 24-26, 2022. All the arrangements are in place for a great event at the Omni Hotel at a highly discounted rate. Hotel reservations and registration for the conference, sponsored by the University of Richmond with Dr. Yvonne Howell in charge of local arrangements, can be found at the following website: https://scss2022richmond.com

On Friday night Professor Donald Raleigh, recent recipient of the 2021 ASEEES Distinguished Contributions Award, will be the featured speaker. Registration for that event is also available on the scss2022richmond.com website.

SCSS is accepting panel and paper proposals for the program and those should be sent to Lee Farrow at lfarrow@aum.edu.

SCSS gives a Best Book Award (for SCSS members). Contact Dr. John Steinberg at Department of History, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN 37044 or at steinbergj@apsu.edu. For questions about the conference contact yhowell@richmond.edu and for information about SCSS membership contact hgoldber@sewanee.edu.

Western Association of Slavic Studies

The Western Association of Slavic Studies Annual Meeting will be held as part of the WSSA’s 64th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, on March 30 - April 2, 2022.

Submit proposals through the website, at the link below, by January 20, 2022 https://www.wssaweb.com/conference-overview.html

From the link, set up a ConfTool Account and then follow directions to choose the Slavic and Eurasian Studies Section and submit your paper.

Any questions contact: Dr. Robert Niebuhr, WASS 2022 Chair.
ASEEES CONGRATULATES THE 2021 AFFILIATE GROUP PRIZE WINNERS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SLAVIC STUDIES
2021 Outstanding Achievement Award
• Winner: Dr. Eve Levin, Professor Emerita, Department of History, U of Kansas
• Honorable Mention: Maya Nadkarni
Heldt Prize for Best Book by a Woman in any area of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
• Honorable Mention: Maya Nadkarni, Remains of Socialism: Memory and the Futures of the Past in Postsocialist Hungary (Cornell UP, 2020)

Best article in Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Women's and Gender Studies
• Winner: Allison Leigh, Picturing Russia's Men: Masculinity and Modernity in 19th-Century Painting (Bloom, 2020)
• Honorable Mention: Katherine E. Young, trans. Look at Him by Anna Starobinets (Three String Books, 2020)

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION
CSA Best Book
• Winner: Karla Huebner, Magnetic Woman: Toyen and the Surrealist Erotic (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020)
• Honorable Mention: Anna Hájková, The Last Ghettos: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt (Oxford UP, 2020)

Emerging Scholars Essay Prize

EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION
ESSA Book Prize
• Winner: Andrey V. Ivanov, A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700-1825 (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020)
• Honorable Mention: Valerie A. Kivelson and Christine D. Worobec (ed.), Witchcraft in Russia and Ukraine, 1000–1900: A Sourcebook (NIU Press, 2020)

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RUSSIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Marc Raef Book Prize
• Winner: Andrey V. Ivanov, A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700–1825 (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020)

HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
2021 HSA Book Prize
• Co-winner: Anita Kurimay, Queer Budapest. 1873-1961 (U of Chicago Press, 2019)

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF AMERICA (PIASA)
Ludwik Krzyżanowski Award for best article published in The Polish Review in 2020
• Winner: Anna Muller, “The Return: The Long Road Home of Female Concentration Camp Inmates” (vol. 65, no. 3)

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES
2021 Book Prize
• Honorable Mention: Péter Berta, Materializing Difference: Consumer Culture, Politics, and Ethnicity among Romanian Roma (University of Toronto Press, 2019)
• Honorable Mention: Călin Cotoi, Inventing the Social in Romania, 1848–1914: Networks and Laboratories of Knowledge (Ferdinand Schoeninger, 2020)

2021 Graduate Student Essay Prize
• Winner: Alexandra Ciocânel (U of Manchester)
• Honorable Mention: Iemima Ploscariu (Dublin City University)

SLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION
2021 Best Article/Book Chapter Prize

AWSS Herlihy Graduate Research Award
• Natalia Laas, Ph.D. Candidate in History at Brandeis University, “Market Research without a Market: Consumers, the State, and the Economy of Waste in the Soviet Union, 1947-1991”

THE BULGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
John D. Bell Memorial Book Prize
• Winner: Maria Todorova, Imagining Utopia 1870s-1920s: The Lost World of Socialists at Europe's Margins (Bloomsbury, 2020)

CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY
2021 CESS Book Award in Social Sciences
• Winner: David Leupold, Embattled Dreamlands: The Politics of Contesting Armenian, Kurdish and Turkish Memory (Routledge, 2020)

POLISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION
The Aquila Polonica Prize

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS (PICA)
2021 Best Book Prize

Bronislaw Malinowski Award in Social Sciences:
• Winner: Geneviève Zubrzycki, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, the Center for European Studies, and the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies, U of Michigan

Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish-Jewish Studies:
• Co-winner: Elyana Adler, Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union (Harvard UP, 2020)
• Co-winner: Adam Teller, Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century (Princeton UP, 2020)

Anna M. Cienciala Award for best edited book in Polish Studies:
• Winner: Silvia G. Dapia, Gombrowicz in Transnational Context: Translation, Affect, and Politics, ed. Silvia G. Dapia (Routledge, 2019)

AWSS Herlihy Graduate Research Award
• Natalia Laas, Ph.D. Candidate in History at Brandeis University, “Market Research without a Market: Consumers, the State, and the Economy of Waste in the Soviet Union, 1947-1991”

THE BULGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
John D. Bell Memorial Book Prize
• Winner: Maria Todorova, Imagining Utopia 1870s-1920s: The Lost World of Socialists at Europe's Margins (Bloomsbury, 2020)

CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY
2021 CESS Book Award in Social Sciences
• Winner: David Leupold, Embattled Dreamlands: The Politics of Contesting Armenian, Kurdish and Turkish Memory (Routledge, 2020)

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION
CSA Best Book
• Winner: Karla Huebner, Magnetic Woman: Toyen and the Surrealist Erotic (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020)
• Honorable Mention: Anna Hájková, The Last Ghettos: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt (Oxford UP, 2020)

Emerging Scholars Essay Prize

EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION
ESSA Book Prize
• Winner: Andrey V. Ivanov, A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700–1825 (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020)
• Honorable Mention: Valerie A. Kivelson and Christine D. Worobec (ed.), Witchcraft in Russia and Ukraine, 1000–1900: A Sourcebook (NIU Press, 2020)

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RUSSIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Marc Raef Book Prize
• Winner: Andrey V. Ivanov, A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700–1825 (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020)

HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
2021 HSA Book Prize
• Co-winner: Anita Kurimay, Queer Budapest. 1873-1961 (U of Chicago Press, 2019)

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF AMERICA (PIASA)
Ludwik Krzyżanowski Award for best article published in The Polish Review in 2020
• Winner: Anna Muller, “The Return: The Long Road Home of Female Concentration Camp Inmates” (vol. 65, no. 3)

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES
2021 Book Prize
• Honorable Mention: Péter Berta, Materializing Difference: Consumer Culture, Politics, and Ethnicity among Romanian Roma (University of Toronto Press, 2019)
• Honorable Mention: Călin Cotoi, Inventing the Social in Romania, 1848–1914: Networks and Laboratories of Knowledge (Ferdinand Schoeninger, 2020)

2021 Graduate Student Essay Prize
• Winner: Alexandra Ciocânel (U of Manchester)
• Honorable Mention: Iemima Ploscariu (Dublin City University)

SLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION
2021 Best Article/Book Chapter Prize
The Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute (CESSI) is an intensive, eight-week language program held each summer at the University of Wisconsin. Students receive the equivalent of one year of language study during this time and earn eight credits upon completion of the program. In addition to language classes, CESSI students have the opportunity to attend lectures; participate in cultural events; engage with local Central Eurasian communities; and network with other scholars!

CESSI typically offers courses in Kazakh, Tajik, Uyghur, and Uzbek. Additional languages (such as Azerbaijani or Kyrgyz) may be added with sufficient student interest.

Funding opportunities exist for students, researchers, and working professionals. Grad, post-baccalaureate researchers, and professionals who are U.S. citizens are especially encouraged to apply for the Title VIII fellowship. Note: this is a great opportunity for grad students to develop language skills before embarking on fieldwork.

The program is expected to be conducted in person; however, staff will monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will reevaluate the modality as needed. The priority application deadline is February 1, 2022. More information will be posted to Facebook (@CessiMadison), Instagram (@uwcessi), and Twitter (@UWCESSI). For more information, please visit cessi.wisc.edu or contact cessi@creeca.wisc.edu.

For answers to questions about how COVID-19 is impacting fellowship and grant opportunities, click here or email kennan@wilsoncenter.org.

Title VIII Research Scholarships
The Kennan Institute offers 3 to 9 month research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. Research proposals examining the countries of Eurasia are eligible. Those proposals related to regional Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, Belarus, the Caucasus, and contemporary issues are particularly welcome. You must be a U.S. citizen to apply. The deadline for the next research fellowship competition is January 31, 2022.

Title VIII Summer Research Scholarships
The Kennan Institute also offers two-month summer research fellowships for those holding an MA degree or higher. Scholars who conduct research in the social sciences or humanities focusing on Russia and the other countries of Eurasia, and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area should consider applying. You must be a U.S. citizen to apply. The deadline for these grants is March 1, 2022.

George F. Kennan Fellowships
Kennan Fellows are based at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials. Kennan Fellows are expected to participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements and attending meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowships, grantees become alumni, for whom Kennan will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement. There are no citizenship requirements for this grant. The next deadline for these grants is March 1, 2022.
The Kennan Institute welcomes:

Title VIII Research Scholars
- Lee Singh, PhD, Department of History, UC Riverside. “Ballet for Socialism’s Sake (and Beyond).”

George F. Kennan Fellows
- Alexandra Arkhipova, Senior Research Fellow, Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. “Russian Political Protest in Rumor and Reality.”

James Billington Fellow
- Katherine Zubovich, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University at Buffalo, SUNY. “Picturing the Plan: Soviet Artists, Global Icons, and the Mobilization of Visual Statistics.”

Galina Starovoitova Fellows
- Alena Popova, Head, Analytical Center, Ethnicity and Technology. “Protecting Privacy and Autonomy of Voters in the Digital Era.”

OSU Sponsors Photo Exhibit

The Ukrainian Museum-Archives is hosting a new photo exhibit by Sasha Maslov. Maslov’s “Ukrainian Railroad Ladies” is a series of portraits of people who work as traffic controllers and safety officers at railroad crossings in Ukraine. It’s a series that studies Ukrainian rural and suburban landscapes where the exteriors of railroad houses play a prominent role. It’s looking into the intimate details of the interiors and invites the viewer to meet the Railroad Ladies themselves.

This project is also an exploration of why this profession still exists in the 21st century, given the almost full automatization of railroad crossings in Ukraine and around the world. It’s a study of the anthropological and social aspects of this profession and the role and importance of the railroad in general in Ukraine.

Born in 1984 in city of Kharkiv, Ukraine, Sasha Maslov knew at an early age he had a passion for photography. Prior to graduating from college in 2006, Maslov pursued projects and collaborated with editorial clients and advertising agencies, establishing himself as a reputable photographer in Ukraine. In 2007, Maslov relocated to New York City where he directs his professional efforts towards fine art and editorial photography.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at the Ohio State University.

Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program Conference

The Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program is pleased to announce its 2022 conference, Beyond Borderland: 30 Years of Ukrainian Sovereignty. The conference will take place from February 7-11, 2022; from 12-2pm (EST) each day.

The conference panels provide a space for academic and policy experts to be in conversation with one another on major issues around Ukrainian sovereignty, including digital transformations, displacement and reintegration, and policy priorities.

The conference is open to the public and the panels will be exclusively on Zoom; registration is required. The Keynote Address, given by Amb. Marie Yovanovitch on Wednesday, February 9, will be on Zoom and streamed live on YouTube (available thereafter). The conference will have live interpretation in Ukrainian.

More information, including the complete schedule and speaker information, is available on the conference website.

The Zimmerli Art Museum

The Zimmerli Art Museum hosted a Virtual Roundtable in conjunction with the exhibition Painting in Excess: Kyiv’s Art Revival, 1985-1993, organized by guest research curator Olena Martynyuk, Ph.D., with assistance from Julia Tulovsky, Ph.D., the Zimmerli’s curator of Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art. Ukrainian scholars discussed the impact of perestroika on the Ukrainian art scene and the emergence of Ukrainian contemporary art. A recording of the event is available on the Zimmerli’s YouTube channel.

The museum will also host a reception and musical concert celebrating the exhibition on February 26, 2022.

The Zimmerli Art Museum
Patrice M. Dabrowski's *The Carpathians: Discovering the Highlands of Poland and Ukraine* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2021) explores Polish and Ukrainian lowlanders’ encounters with indigenous highlanders and how these peoples were incorporated into a national narrative.

Contemporary Queer Plays by Russian Playwrights, edited by Tatiana Klepikova, (Bloomsbury, September 2021) is the first anthology of LGBTQ-themed plays written by Russian queer authors and straight allies in the 21st century.

Ivan N. Petrov’s *The Development of the Bulgarian Literary Language: From Incunabula to First Grammars, Late Fifteenth–Early Seventeenth Century*, (Lexington Books, March 2021) examines the history of the first printed Cyrillic books and their role in the development of the Bulgarian literary language.


Georgetown University Press published *Etazhi*, by Evgeny Dengub and Susanna Nazarova. It uses the communicative approach to advance students' Russian proficiency.

The essays and translations in *Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev*, (Indiana University Press, September 2021) chart the transformations and transpositions that this tale underwent to provoke theatrical revolutions.


James Cracraft’s *Revolutions and the Making of the Modern World: From Peter the Great to Karl Marx*, edited by William Benton Whisenhunt, (Peter Lang, July 2021) gathers over forty years of Cracraft’s scholarship. The book contributes to Russian history and to the study of history itself.

*The Frontline* (Harvard University Press, September 2021) by Serhii Plokhy, forms a companion volume to Plokhy's *The Gates of Europe* and *Chernobyl*. This volume reveals the roots of political, cultural, and military conflict in Ukraine.

*Understanding World Christianity Russia*, by Scott M. Kenworthy and Alexander S. Agadjanian, (Fortress Press, January 2021) explores how Christianity influences, and is influenced by, the Russian context.

*Medical Storyworlds: Health, Illness, and Bodies in Russian and European Literature at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, by Elena Fratto, (Columbia University Press, November 2021) examines the relationship between literature and medicine at the turn of the twentieth century.

Routledge August 2021 showcases research on war remembrance in its various forms.

*Understanding the Workers’ Opposition in the Russian Communist Party: Documents, 1919–30*, edited by Barbara C. Allen (Brill, 2021) details the activity of the Workers’ Opposition group during its existence and of its individual former members after the group dissolved.

Here an international cohort of authors utilizes a host of newly available sources to investigate institutions, social groups, and social conflict amid the chaos of the Russian Civil War. In addition to studies of intelligence and the role of ideology and propaganda from the fighting armies give insight into the motivations of the war’s soldiers. Chapters on peasant insurgency and the anarchic conflicts in Ukraine offer a clearer understanding of often-neglected aspects of the Civil War.

This book explores the military history of the Russian Civil War. Drawing heavily on research from Russian historians but including an international slate of authors, it traces the fighting on the Civil War’s eastern, southern, northern, and northwestern fronts, examining both the Bolshevik Reds and their White opponents. In addition, thematic chapters explore the role of aviation and naval forces in the Russian Civil War. Employing a wide range of new Russian archival sources, the authors bring fresh insights on the war’s campaigns and operations to an English-speaking audience.
UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS

JANUARY 28
Living Intersectionality in Academia: Emerging Scholars
2-3:30 pm (ET) 1-2:30 pm (CT) 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (MT) 11:30 am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: Emily Couch, PEN America
PRESENTERS: Kellan Baker, Whitman-Walker Institute
Nadja Greku, Central European University
Christy Monet, University of Chicago
Raushan Zhansayeva, George Washington University

FEBRUARY 4
Transforming the Academy: Intersectionality and Change in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
2-3:30 pm (ET) 1-2:30 pm (CT) 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (MT) 11:30 am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College
PRESENTERS: Carina Karapetian Georgi, Antelope Valley College
Joseph Lenkart, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Pawel Lewicki, Europa University, Viadrina
Olga Povoroznyuk, University of Vienna

CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 11
Talking About Globalization: Gender, Race, Dis/ability & Politics
2-3:30 pm (ET) 1-2:30 pm (CT) 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (MT) 11:30 am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: Vitaly Chernetsky, University of Kansas
PRESENTERS: Bolaji Balogun, University of Sheffield
Lucie Fremlova, Independent Scholar
Teodor Mladenov, University of Dundee
Tamar Shirinian, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

FEBRUARY 25
(Post-) Pandemic Eurasia: Why Intersectionality Matters
2-3:30 pm (ET) 1-2:30 pm (CT) 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (MT) 11:30 am-12:30 pm (PT)
MODERATOR: Joan Neuberger, University of Texas at Austin
PRESENTERS: Svetlana Borodina, Columbia University
Kateřina Kolářová, Charles University
Elana Reznick, University of California, Santa Barbara
Eniko Vincez, Babeș-Bolyai University
I am pleased to report that in 2021, ASEEES successfully carried out existing programs and initiated new programs and initiatives even though we were facing significant challenges and uncertainties due to the continuing pandemic conditions.

**Membership**
The 2021 membership increased slightly from the previous year, with 3,262 members, compared to 3,192 in 2020. Of 3,262 members, 623 were student members (19%), 313 affiliate members (9.6%), and 78 lifetime members (2.4%). 1,194 were international members (36.6% of total members) from 51 countries, of which 484 were from 18 countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (including 161 from Russia and 78 from Poland). The top five countries outside the US with the most members were: the UK (161), Russia (161), Canada (145), Germany (96), and Poland (78). For a comparison to a pre-pandemic year, in 2019 we had 3,490 members: 685 student members; 337 affiliate members; and 1,246 international members from 49 countries. For trends in membership over the last decade, please see the table appended to this report. For 2021 institutional membership, we had 52 members: 22 premium and 30 regular members.

**Annual Convention**
The 53rd Annual Convention was held at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside on November 18-21, 2021, and on the virtual platform on December 1-3, 2021. With the theme of “Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity,” 606 sessions in total were scheduled in the program. The Presidential Plenary entitled, “Diversity and Access in the Profession,” chaired by the 2021 President Sibelan Forrester (Swarthmore College), featured Thomas Garza (U of Texas at Austin), Anita Kurimay (Bryn Mawr College), Barbara Milewski (Swarthmore College), and Sunnie Rucker-Chang (U of Cincinnati). Forrester gave her presidential address, “The Implications of Our Theme: Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity,” during the Award ceremony.

The 2021 convention, in many ways, was more difficult to organize and schedule than the 2020 convention with a sudden shift to a new virtual platform. The uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, vaccines, international travel restrictions, and then the hurricane in New Orleans made decision-making difficult for us at ASEEES as well as the convention attendees. This resulted in constant changes to the convention schedule, which were extremely challenging to manage. When we first created the preliminary program in May, out of 605 sessions, 470 (78% of total) were scheduled.
for the in-person convention while 135 (22%) were scheduled for the virtual. By late October, the situation had reversed with 203 sessions in person (33%) and 403 virtual (67%), together consisting of 368 panels, 153 roundtable, 39 individual paper panels/lightning rounds, a plenary, 4 film screenings, and 41 meetings and other events. The COVID-19 safety protocol for the in-person convention had to be rewritten many times, leading finally to a requirement of vaccines and masks and hiring a third-party vendor for vaccine verification. Because of all the late changes, we allowed some hybrid sessions, but they were costly (the technical setup for hybrid sessions in just 3 meeting rooms cost $15,000) and still experienced technical problems. Nonetheless, majority of responses to the post-convention survey indicated that the attendees enjoyed both the in-person and the virtual conventions. I thank the Program Committee chair Thomas Garza (U of Texas Austin) and the ASEEES staff, especially Margaret Manges and Kelly McGee, for their incredible effort and patience in juggling the constant schedule changes.

The final registration numbers for the convention were: 2,516 registrants, of which 1,060 were for in-person + virtual (42%) and 1,456 for virtual only; 2,106 were members (84%) and 410 non-members. We offered registration waivers to 111 participants and additional free registration to 81 undergraduates. Of the total registrants, 338 were graduate students (13.4%) (184 for virtual only); 569 were first-time attendees (22.6%) (approx. 360 for virtual only). Of the 703 international registrants from 48 countries, the largest contingents were from Russia (102), Canada (90), the UK (89), Germany (51), and Poland (50). We thank the 12 convention sponsors and 29 exhibitors – 21 in New Orleans and 9 additional virtual-only exhibitors – for their support.

For 2022, we will hold our 54th Annual Convention at the Chicago Hilton on November 10-13, following a smaller virtual convention on October 13-14. The program chair is Betsy Hemenway (Loyola U Chicago), and the convention theme is “Precarity.” The number of sessions for the virtual convention will be limited, and we will not be able to accommodate the option to move from an in-person to virtual or virtual to in-person format. We also will not be able to offer hybrid sessions at the in-person convention, as the technical cost will be prohibitively expensive.

Slavic Review
The editorial office of Slavic Review, under the leadership of Harriet Murav, editor, and Dmitry Tartakovskiy, managing editor, has done tremendous work in the face of pandemic conditions in the last two years and has been publishing issues with significant impact, including a special feature on race and bias in Summer 2021. Murav’s tenure as editor will end in August 2023, after 10 years of service. The Slavic Review Committee will begin the process of naming a new editor this year. Slavic Review continues to be published by Cambridge University Press. Concerns regarding financial sustainability and equity persist as the academic journal publishing world rapidly adopts the open access model.

Fundraising
In the fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021), we received a total of $227,485 in gifts, including pledge payments and the KAT Foundation’s annual contribution for the Stephen F. Cohen-Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Fellowship program, and for FY 2022 we have received $125,200 from July 1 to December 31, 2021. Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and institutions to the Future of the Field Campaign, we have been able to greatly increase the funding for programs for 2019-2022. To maintain the elevated level of funding for programs, we are increasing our fundraising efforts. We renewed and increased the KAT Foundation agreement for the Cohen-Tucker Fellowships for 2022-2024. In December, the Kulczycki family endowed the Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies with a pledge gift of $25,000. We thank all the donors to ASEEES.

Research Grants
Thanks to fundraising efforts, we have been able to provide significant grant funds to our graduate student members. In 2021, we awarded 33 dissertation/research fellowships and grants totaling $325,000 in disbursements.

- **Dissertation Research Grant:** We awarded 14 grants, with each receiving a stipend of up to $6,000, to conduct dissertation research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. All grantees have begun their in-country research.
- **Summer Dissertation Writing Grant:** We awarded 8 grants to PhD students working on diverse topics and disciplines. The grant provided a $6,000 stipend for them to concentrate on writing their dissertations during the summer months.
- **Understanding Modern Russia:** We awarded 3 Understanding Modern Russia grants, with a $6,000 stipend, to conduct research on modern Russia.
- **Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship:** We awarded 3 $25,000 fellowships and 2 partial fellowships together totaling $25,000 because the fellows were only able to conduct research in Russia for shorter durations.
- **Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Completion Grant:** We awarded 3 fellowships with $25,000 stipends. This program has not been affected by COVID, and the fellows are on track to complete and defend their dissertations by spring/summer 2022.

Convention Travel Grants
Despite concerns about the pandemic and associated barriers to travel, we received a fair number of applications for travel grants to participate in the in-person convention in New Orleans. Unfortunately, a substantial portion of the grant recipients, particularly those traveling from abroad, were forced to forfeit their grants, either because they were unable to obtain a visa and/or vaccination, or because they and the other members of their panel decided to move to the virtual convention.

This year, ASEEES selected 101 travel grantees. Of these, 25 participated in the in-person convention and have been paid. Here are the numbers for the travel grant competitions:
• For the **Graduate Student Travel Grant**, we received 42 applications and initially funded all applicants (8 students at US institutions and 34 non-US institutions, including citizens of 12 different countries) with a $500 grant each for a total of $21,000. Of these, 10 were able to participate in the convention and accept the grant.

• For the **Regional Scholar Travel Grant**, we initially offered 24 grants up to $1,000 to scholars from 10 different countries for a total of $24,000. Four of these scholars were able to participate in the convention and accept the grant.

• For the **Russian Scholar Travel Grant**, we initially awarded 16 grants up to $1,000 for a total of $16,000. Four of the Russian scholars were able to present at the in-person convention and accept their grant. This program is funded mainly by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

• For the **Convention Opportunity Travel Grant**, we initially awarded 14 grants of $500 each for a total of $7,000. Four of these participated in the in-person convention and have been paid.

• For the **Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant**, we awarded 5 grants for a total of $2,500. Three accepted and took part in the convention.

Other Programs
- **Internship Grant Program**: We funded 13 internships for 2021-2022, disbursing $64,000 in grants. Grantees receive a monthly stipend of $2,000 for either 2 summer months or 4 spring or fall months. Grantees must find their own internships.

- **First Book Subvention**: We funded 5 first book subventions and disbursed $10,000. The maximum subvention is $2,500.

- **Mentoring Program**: We made 35 junior contact/senior contact matches for the ASEEES Mentoring Program in 2021.

ABSEEES

In April 2021, ASEEES took over the license of the American Bibliography for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies from the University of Illinois and signed a contract with EBSCO to maintain ABSEEES on its platform. As part of the contract, ASEEES regular and student members have access to ABSEEES via the ASEEES member site.

Advocacy
The Committee on Academic Freedom and Advocacy and the Executive Committee continue to field a large number of advocacy requests of diverse concerns. You can read the advocacy statements here.

2021 Board Decisions
The ASEEES Board met on November 18, 2021, for its annual meeting, and approved the following:
- Amended Code of Conduct policy and new procedure;
- Establishment of the Maya K Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies Fund;
- Establishment of the Future Thinking Grant to consider the impact of the pandemic on the Association and the field;
- Mutual Aid Initiative proposed by the Working Group for Solidarity in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies;
- Change in the charge for the Investment Committee to take into consideration the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) implications of investment choices for the ASEEES Fund.

Board Election/Incoming Members
The 2021 annual election for the Board of Directors was held from June-Sept, and the results were the following: Juliet Johnson (Political Science, McGill U) was elected Vice President/President-Elect for 2022; Andy Janco (Digital Librarian, Haverford College) and Kimberly Zarecor (Architecture, Iowa State U) were elected Members-at-Large for 2022-2024; and Zachary Hicks (Slavic, UC Berkeley) was elected the Graduate Student Representative for 2022-2023. A total of 3,082 ballots were sent out, and 1,210 voted for a response rate of 39.2%.

The other incoming Board members in 2022 are: Edward Holland (U of Arkansas) as the AAG representative; Karen Evans-Romaine (U of Wisconsin-Madison) as the AATSEEL representative; Amanda Gregg (Middlebury College) as the Economics representative; and Alexandra Vacroux (Harvard U) as the Council of Institutional Members representative.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ASEEES Board, especially the outgoing Board members for their service: Jan Kubik, Eileen Kane, Maria Popova, Christina Novakov-Richey, Keith Brown, Angela Brintlinger, Steven Nafziger, and Jeremy Tasch.

Finally, I thank the University of Pittsburgh for hosting the main ASEEES office and to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for hosting the Slavic Review editorial office. We would not be able to do our work without the support these universities provide.

The untimely death of Dr. Maya Karin Peterson, (UC Santa Cruz) leading scholar in the environmental history of Central Asia, Russia, and the Soviet Union, is an enormous loss to of the field and beyond.

In November, the ASEEES Board approved establishment of the Maya K. Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies. This grant is made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Peterson’s family, friends, and colleagues. Please consider donating to the Maya K. Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies Endowment Fund in her memory.
2022 ASEEES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Joan Neuberger, President; U of Texas at Austin
Juliet Johnson, President-Elect/Vice President; McGill U
Sibelan Forrester, Immediate Past President; Swarthmore College
Christine Worobec, Treasurer; Northern Illinois U
Michael Kunichika, Member-at-large; Amherst College
Harriet Murav, Editor, Slavic Review; U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lynda Park, Executive Director (ex officio); U of Pittsburgh

*****

Michael Bernhard, APSA representative, U of Florida
Kate Pride Brown, Sociology representative, Georgia Tech
Theodora Dragostinova, Member-at-large, Ohio State U
Karen Evans-Romaine, AATSEEL rep., U of Wisconsin, Madison
Amanda Gregg, Economics representative, Middlebury College
Zachary Hicks, Graduate student representative, UC Berkeley
Edward Holland, AAG representative, U of Arkansas
Andy Janco, Member-at-large, Haverford College
Neringa Klumbyte, AAA representative, Miami U of Ohio
Joseph Lenkart, CLIR rep., U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Robert Niebuhr, Council of Regional Affiliates rep., Arizona State U
Karen Petrone, Member-at-large, U of Kentucky
Sunnie Rucker-Chang, Member-at-large, U of Cincinnati
Asif Siddiqi, AHA representative, Fordham U
Alexandra Vacroux, Council of Institutional Members rep., Harvard U
Kimberly Zarecor, Member-at-Large, Iowa State U

2022 ASEEES Committees

Nominating Committee
Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College, Chair
Val Kivelson, U of Michigan
Lynn Tesser, Command and Staff College of the Marine Corps U

Committee on Academic Freedom and Advocacy
Jan Kubik, Rutgers: The State U of New Jersey/U College London (UK), 2022-2024, Co-chair
Elizabeth Wood, MIT, 2020-2022, Co-chair
Dmitry Dubrovsky, Centre for Independent Social Research (Russia)
Zsuzsanna Magdo, U of Pittsburgh, 2018-2023, Chair
Anne Arays, Yale U, Chair, Subcommittee on Education and Access
Roman Ivashkiv, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Faculty Liaison
Ayana Lyandres, U of Notre Dame, Member-at-large
Janice Pilch, Rutgers U, Chair of Subcommittee on Copyright Issues
Alla Roylance, New York U, Chair, Subcommittee on Slavic & East European Materials Project (SEEMP)
Matthew Young, Library of Congress, Chair, Subcommittee on Collection Development

Investment Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee
Christine Worobec, Northern Illinois U, 2021-2023, Chair
Juliet Johnson, McGill U (Canada), 2018-2023
Craig Kennedy, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (retired), 2020-2022

Committee on Environmental Sustainability
José Vergara, Bryn Mawr College, 2020-2022, Chair
Jane Costlow, Bates College, 2020-2022
Elizabeth Plantan, Stetson U, 2020-2022

Slavic Review Committee
Mark Steinberg, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair
Michael Bernhard, U of Florida
Angela Cannon, Library of Congress
Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College

Code of Conduct Committee
Janet Johnson, CUNY Brooklyn College, 2022-2024, Chair
Eric Naiman, UC Berkeley, 2022-2026
Alison Smith, U of Toronto (Canada), 2022-2026
**PRIZE COMMITTEES**

**Distinguished Contributions Award Committee**
Eliot Borenstein, New York U, 2020-2022, Chair
Choi Chatterjee, California State U, Los Angeles, 2021-2023
Gerald Creed, Hunter College, 2020-2022
Kate Holland, U of Toronto (Canada), 2022-2024
Valerie Sperling, Clark U, 2022-2024

**Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize Committee**
Nancy Condee, U of Pittsburgh, 2021-2022, Chair
David Darrow, U of Dayton, 2022
Steve Nafziger, Williams College, 2022-2023
Margaret Beissinger, Princeton U, 2022-2023

**Davis Center Book Prize Committee**
Olga Onuch, U of Manchester (UK), 2020-2022, Chair
Emily Channell-Justice, Harvard U, 2020-2022
Jeffrey Kopstein, UC Irvine, 2020-2022

**USC Book Prize Committee**
Jon Stone, Franklin and Marshall College, 2020-2022, Chair
Martha Kelly, U of Missouri, 2022-2024
Ana Hedberg Olenina, Arizona State U, 2022-2024

**Reginald Zelnik Book Prize Committee**
Barbara Engel, U of Colorado, 2021-2023, Chair
Aaron Retish, Wayne State U, 2022-2024
Ronald Suny, U of Michigan, 2021-2023

**W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize Committee**
David Brandenberger, U of Richmond, 2021-2023, Chair
Andy Bruno, Northern Illinois U, 2022-2024
Christine Evans, U Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 2020-2022

**Marshall Shulman Book Prize Committee**
Jelena Subotic, Georgia State U, 2021-2023, Chair
Nikita Lomagin, European U at St. Petersburg, 2021-2022
Elidor Mëhilli, CUNY Hunter College, 2022-2024

**Ed A Hewett Book Prize Committee**
Sarah Wilson Sokhey, U of Colorado, 2020-2022, Chair
Cynthia Buckley, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2022-2024

**Barbara Jelavich Book Prize Committee**
Sean McMeekin, Bard College, 2020-2022, Chair
Jovana Babovic, SUNY Geneseo, 2022
Nicholas Novosel, US Department of the Army, 2022-2024

**Kulczycki Book Prize Committee**
Malgorzata Mazurek, Columbia U, 2020-2022, Chair
Benjamin Paloff, U of Michigan, 2021-2023
Kathryn Ciancia, U of Wisconsin, 2022-2024

**Pritsak Book Prize Committee**
Michael Naydan, Penn State U, 2019-2022, Chair
Margarita Balmaceda, Harvard U/Seton Hall U, 2022-2024
Steve Seegel, U of Texas at Austin, 2021-2023

**Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee**
Lauri Mälksoo, U of Tartu (Estonia), 2020-2022, Chair
Andrea Lanoux, Connecticut College, 2021-2023
Maria Popova, McGill U (Canada), 2022-2024

**Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize**
Bruce Grant, New York U, 2020-2022, Chair
Alexis Peri, Boston U, 2022-2024
Kathleen Smith, Georgetown U, 2022-2024

**GRANT/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES**

**ASEEES Dissertation Grant Committee**
Ben Noble, U College London (UK), 2020-2022, Chair
Natalia Aleksiun, Touro College, 2021-2023
Katya Hokanson, U of Oregon, 2020-2022

**Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee**
Susan Morrissey, UC Irvine, 2020-2022, Chair
Galya Diment, U of Washington, 2022-2024
Robert Weinberg, Swarthmore College, 2022-2024

**Internship Grant Committee**
Amb. Ian Kelly, Northwestern U, 2020-2022, Chair
Melissa Bokovoy, U of New Mexico, 2020-2022
Nina Murray, US Department of State, 2020-2022

**Convention Opportunity Travel Grant/Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant Committee**
Choi Chatterjee, CSU Los Angeles, 2020-2022, Chair
Matthew Romaniello, Weber State U, 2022-2024
Lenny Urena Valerio, U of New Mexico, 2021-2023

**Graduate Student Travel Grant Committee**
Brian LaPierre, U of Southern Mississippi, 2020-2022, Chair
Katherine Bowers, U of British Columbia (Canada), 2020-2022
Andrea Rusnock, Indiana U South Bend, 2022-2024

**First Book Subvention Committee**
David Ost, Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges, 2020-2022, Chair
Paul Hanebrink, Rutgers U, 2021-2023
Brigid O’Keeffe, Brooklyn College, 2022-2024
Gwen Walker, U of Wisconsin, 2021-2023 (non-voting member)

**Regional Scholar Travel Grant Committee**
Jan Musekamp, U of Pittsburgh, 2021-2023, Chair
Janine Holc, Loyola U Maryland, 2022-2024
Julia Vaingurt, U of Illinois at Chicago, 2020-2022

**Russian Scholar Travel Grant Committee**
Julie Hessler, U of Oregon, 2021-2023, Chair
Kathleen Manukyan, U of Pittsburgh, 2022-2024
Lauren Alicia McCarthy, U of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2022-2024
ASEEES is delighted to begin the second year of its pilot program, the Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion (IDI), with the goal of providing structural and networking support for our community of BIPOC students, scholars, and professionals in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies in the US. With 60 participants who joined in 2021, 25 of whom were new to ASEEES, we are expanding the initiative to include current first-generation undergraduates of any race, gender, or ethnicity in SSEE in the US. We welcome students, scholars, working professionals, and professors of underrepresented backgrounds at various stages of their careers, including undergraduate students selected for the Undergraduate Think Tank coordinated by Howard University. We look forward to continuing to welcome new participants with a complimentary two-year ASEEES membership, as well as growing the IDI mentoring program and facilitating networking opportunities for the members.

Thanks to high attendance and positive feedback from the 2021 ASEEES career programs, we look forward to continuing the events this spring, beginning with the Exploring Career Diversity Conversation Series. Supported by the Committee for Careers beyond Academia, the series will consist of several informal sessions, conducted via Zoom breakout rooms, during which participants will have the opportunity to speak to professionals in various career sectors. The events will be open to members who are graduate students or recent graduates interested in broadening their career trajectories. The 2021 series hosted panelists in secondary education, higher education outside the tenure track, government and government-affiliated organizations, non-profits and program management, and business and consulting. More information about the 2022 program lineup and how to sign up will be announced in February.

ASEEES also hosted the Demystifying the Academic Job Market Webinar & Workshop Series in the fall, a two-part webinar and workshop led by Professors Alison K. Smith (U of Toronto) and Elizabeth (Liz) Lehfeldt (Cleveland State U). These interactive events addressed the overall arc of the academic job market process (including information about the search, negotiating offers, and general questions about application materials), and the specifics of the teaching statement addressed in higher ed pedagogy. We plan to host another academic job series in fall 2022. Information will be announced in late summer.

ASEEES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This program provides graduate students & recent graduates with funding so that they can accept unpaid/unpaid internships in Russian studies.

DEADLINE: MARCH 1
ASEEES STATEMENT ON MEMORIAL SOCIETY

ASEEES EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN ON RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT’S ASSAULT ON MEMORIAL

The ASEEES Executive Committee condemns the recent decision by the Russian Supreme Court to shut down the Memorial Society, Russia’s most venerable human rights organization. Since its founding in 1989, Memorial has pursued a dual mission: to document and increase public awareness of mass repression during the Soviet era, and to promote human rights and civil society in contemporary Russia. Its staff has done pioneering research on the arrest, imprisonment, and execution of millions of innocent Soviet citizens, on the extraction of slave labor by Nazi occupiers during the Second World War, and on the history of the Soviet dissident movement. It has amassed priceless expertise on these and other topics along with a unique archive of historical documents that have become an invaluable resource for scholars in Russia and around the world, including members of ASEEES. We call on the Russian government to restore Memorial’s legal standing as an independent organization dedicated to historical research, education, and advocacy.

See a related statement issued on November 16, 2021.

Please click here to read more about other ASEEES advocacy efforts and its advocacy policy and procedures.