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Prague Spring at 50

Daria V. Ezerova
YALE UNIVERSITY

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

HBO's *Burning Bush* (*Hořící keř*, 2013) indicates an ongoing shift in the representation of monumentalized historical events. Proliferating in television and big-budget blockbusters, they no longer belong exclusively to the realm of high culture, nor do these depictions aspire to maintain a somber tone. But can commercial cinema and television do the kind of memory work typically done in higher cultural registers? Are these new depictions merely opportunistic and speculative, or can they be somehow commemorative and therefore politicized? The irreverent historical inaccuracy and farcical nature of Armando Iannucci's *The Death of Stalin* (2017) – adapted from the eponymous and equally fanciful graphic novel by Thierry Robin and Fabien Nury – did not prevent it from sparking heated debate and igniting a scandal in Russia. Terry George's *The Promise* (2016) received outstandingly bad reviews and failed at the box

office, but was nonetheless lauded for shining a spotlight on the Armenian genocide. FX's Cold War period drama *The Americans* (2013-) is mentioned in just about every op-ed on US-Russia relations. In the case of the Prague Spring, this tectonic shift in modes and registers of representation is overlaid by a changing attitude toward the events of 1968.

German historian Jan Pauer trenchantly remarks that the Prague Spring has been consistently fetishized by the West, while in the former Czechoslovakia, perception of the nascent liberalization of 1968 has changed over time. On the one hand, the Prague Spring presaged the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and has thus become regarded, because of its failure, as "the historical end of reform communism."¹ Famously, 1989 witnessed a demonstration in honor of the twentieth anniversary of Palach's self-immolation, as well as the return of Alexander Dubček and Václav Havel into the public eye. On the other hand, the backlash against all things Soviet that swept across the former Eastern Bloc in the 1990s cast a shadow on the Prague Spring's glorified legacy, and it became remembered as "primarily a struggle between various communist parties and the whole event is viewed as an episode in the history of an absurd experiment –communism."² In other words, the memory of 1968 appears to have been overlaid by the chronology of late and post-Communism. But what about now? Soviet socialism has been extinct for too long and in many ways, the term "post-Communism" is already obsolete. After all, there is now a generation of adults born after 1989/1991 who never lived under Communism. So how do we approach



Fig1 Aleš Najbrt, *Jaro 68 - Podzim 89 Občanské fórum Československo*

the Prague Spring on the cusp of its 50th anniversary?

A recent conference entitled *1968-1989: Paris-Prague* offered yet another retrospective reconceptualization of the event. Not only was 1989 presented as "a mere inversion of spring 1968" – evoking a popular poster that showed "89" as an upside-down mirror image of "68" (see figure above)– but the insistence on a parallel between the Prague Spring and *Mai 68* demonstrated an attempt to examine the events in Czechoslovakia from a broader international perspective, rather than just in the context of Communism, and to fully inscribe it in the global 1968, as it were.³ Paired with the changing modes of representation that I mentioned earlier, the end of post-Communism and the

reconceptualization of the Prague Spring in an international context call for the creation of new forums and approaches to the study of the events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia and their aftermath. Such is the rationale behind *Prague Spring on Screen*, a panel series sponsored by the ASEES Working Group on Cinema and Television (WGCTV), which will take place at this year's annual convention in Boston.

Although primarily focusing on cinematic representations of political liberalization and the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, *Prague Spring on Screen* strives for maximum interdisciplinarity in order to assess the legacy of 1968 across time, genres, and media. To this end, the WGCTV is bringing together experts from a number of fields, including art history,

architecture, film theory, and Slavic studies. The panels are organized in a way that will allow screen representations of the Prague Spring to be discussed both synchronically and diachronically. From the Prague Spring and the Soviet invasion to Husák's normalization, to *Charta 77*, to the Velvet Revolution, to post-Communism, the series will examine the far-reaching repercussions of 1968. At the same time, the panels will avoid a purely historiographic, chronological approach and will investigate the events of 1968 from a broadly interdisciplinary and cross-media perspective.

A panel entitled *Witnessing 1968* will assume the ambitious task of investigating how the Warsaw Pact invasion volatilized the relationship between documentary and fiction film in former Czechoslovakia and Poland. Tracing the unstable relationship between reality and fiction across a broad array of works – from such classics as Karel Kachyňa's *The Ear* (1969) to post-communist productions such as Evald Schorm's *Confusion* (1990) – the panel will examine the difference between narrating and documenting social upheaval and its aftermath. Special attention will be given to the themes of surveillance and subjectivity in light of Czesław Miłosz's *The Captive Mind* (1953) and the writings of Václav Havel.

Another panel focusing on [gender and artistic freedom](#) in the wake of 1968 will reintegrate frequently marginalized voices – from anarcho-feminists to ethnic minorities – in its study of the Prague Spring and dissent under communism more broadly. In addition, it will bring insights from animation studies and music theory to its exploration of screen representation

of “the event” by examining the works of Jan Švankmajer and nonconformist composers of the USSR. The latter will offer a unique perspective on the events of 1968 by looking at Soviet radical intelligentsia and its protests of the Warsaw Pact invasion.

The third panel will examine [cinema's interaction with literature and architecture](#) during the “normalization” period under Gustáv Husák (1969–1987). Innovative approaches to interart dialogues will bring together such diverse phenomena as the Czech New Wave, *samizdat*, and panel housing to help participants unpack such complex categories as genre, gender, space, and cultural resistance.

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

Prague Spring on Screen is among the

first WGCTV initiatives to focus entirely on non-Russian film, and organizing this series revealed several larger concerns relevant to Slavic Studies in the broadest sense. Firstly, the enthusiastic response to the call for papers could not conceal the fact that the field remains skewed toward Russian Studies. As a Russianist myself, I could not help but notice that although we continue to speak about the centennial of the Bolshevik Revolution in 2018, the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring – or, for that matter, any jubilee that does not center around Russia – remains a somewhat marginalized topic. Secondly, the conceptualization of individual panels laid bare the ongoing necessity to study the USSR *as an empire*, and the potential for applying postcolonial approaches to Russian imperialism throughout history. The epistemic violence that resulted from the Soviet Union's obscuring or erasure of ethnic and geographical differences in the name of a universalism that concentrated all cultural, economic and political power in Moscow has shaped the field for a long time and is in many ways the reason behind the isolation between the regional fields of Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian studies. Thirty years after the fall of Communism, there is a need for new platforms and methods that would work against this isolation and more efficiently integrate the voices of the USSR's former subalterns into academic discourse.

I would like to return here to the question with which I began my essay, namely whether we can consider contemporary popular culture depictions of tragic historical events as being something other than opportunistic. Fredric Jameson notes

2018 ASEES BOARD ELECTION

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

Candidates for Vice President / President Elect

Jan Kubik, Rutgers University and University College London
Graeme B. Robertson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Candidates for Members-at-Large

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

For more information on the election including the candidate bios, visit our [website](#). Information on how to vote will be distributed by email to current members of ASEES by mid-June.

that “to permit a far more adequate account of the mechanisms of [...] mass culture [one has to] grasp [it] not as an empty distraction or ‘mere’ false consciousness, but rather as a transformational work on social and political anxieties and fantasies which must then have some effective presence in the mass culture text in order subsequently to be ‘managed’ or repressed.”⁴ What is the meaning of the Prague Spring in 2018? A number of political scientists concur that in many countries worldwide, the present is an era of post-democracy. This is a new kind of politics that created a society of spectacle, and not merely in a Debordian sense. It has limited citizens' role to that of impassive spectators of political games in which they do not participate and on which they have no bearing. The Soviet Union's non-participatory and exclusionary politics suddenly appear to have gotten a

second life and a number of specters across the world. Revisiting Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact invasion on the eve of its 50th anniversary can allow us not only to examine the changing modes of representation but to also start a conversation on what history can teach us as we face the challenges and dangers of a post-democratic world.

Daria Ezerova is a PhD candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Yale University and president of the ASEES Working Group on Cinema and Television. She is a specialist on twentieth-century and contemporary Russian literature and cinema, which she discusses in her dissertation, “Derelict Futures: The Spaces of Socialism in Contemporary Russian Literature and Film.” Her publications have appeared in [Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema](#),

Kinokultura, and SEANS.

In Spring 2018, she accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian Studies at Davidson College.

Fig1 Aleš Najbrt, *Jaro 68 - Podzim 89 Občanské fórum Československo (Spring 68 – Fall 89, Civic Forum Czechoslovakia)*, 1989. Screen print on paper, 84.5 x 60 cm. Moravian Gallery in Brno, Czech Republic.

(Endnotes)

1 Jan Pauer, “The Dispute about the Legacy of the ‘Prague Spring’” European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, June 7, 2011, accessed April 15, 2018 <http://enrs.eu/en/articles/104-the-legacy-of-the-prague-spring>.

2 Ibid.

3 “International Conference ‘1968 – 1989: PARIS – PRAGUE’” The Institute of Philosophy, The Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, accessed April 15, 2018 <http://oskf.flu.cas.cz/1968-1989-home>.

4 Fredric Jameson, “Reification and Utopia in Mass Culture,” *Social Text*, no. 1 (January/February 1979), 141.

70 Years of Scholarship and 50 Years of Collaboration

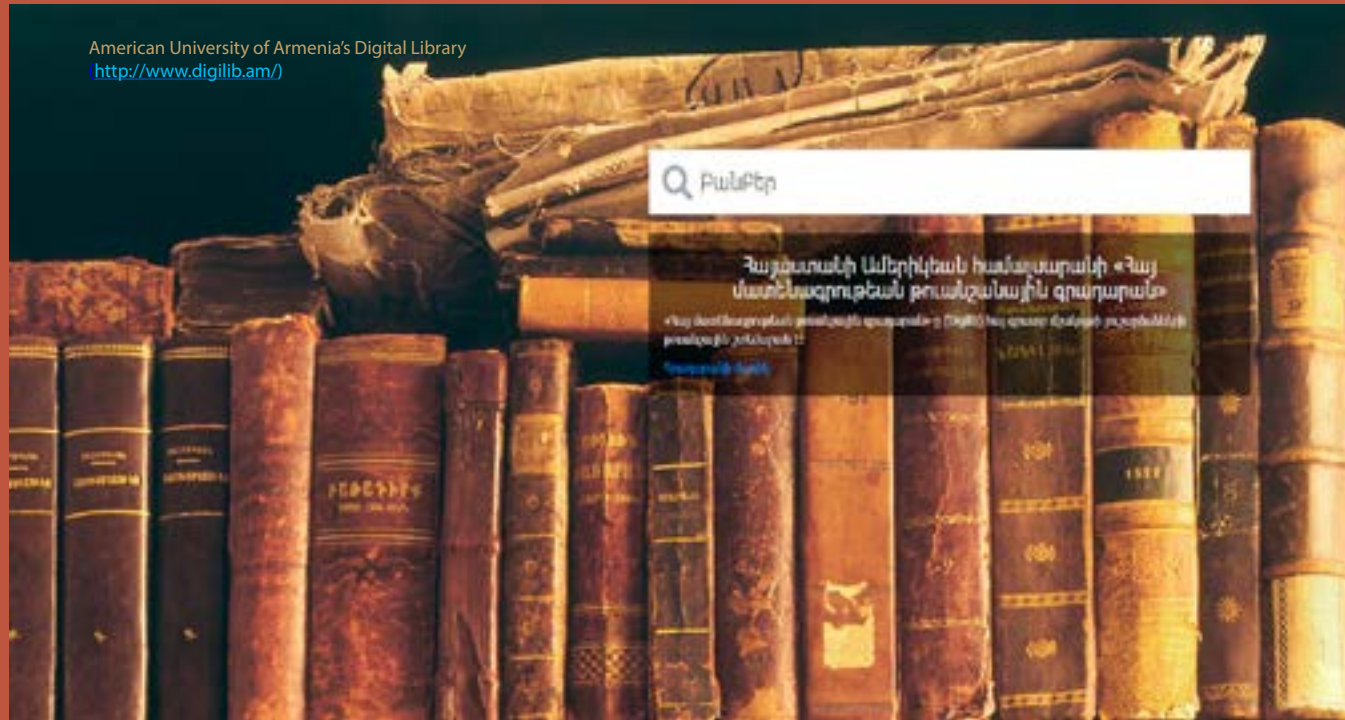
Celebrate with us
as we mark ASEEES' 70th Anniversary
and 50th Convention



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

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

Please share your defining moments in the field by sending stories, images, and videos to newsnet@pitt.edu or by posting on the ASEEES Commons group [Celebrating ASEEES Anniversaries](#). Your stories and photos may be shared.



In Search of the “Perfect Collection”: ARMENIAN STUDIES COLLECTIONS AT THE UC-BERKELEY LIBRARY

Liladhar R. Pendse
UC BERKELEY

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

Introduction and Statement of the Problem

As my colleagues and I try to understand and analyze the unattainable ideal of a “perfect collection that supports Armenian Studies,” several key questions emerge. Historically speaking, existing collections at the majority of the North American universities are a function of personnel investments and financial investments over time. How can one define and measure the impact of such collections on the community of scholars and students in the face of differing philosophical collection building approaches and methodologies, often fraught with contradictions? How can a collection be built in the face of limited resources and relentless technological changes? Can one even aspire to build a “perfect collection” for a niche discipline such as Armenian Studies? For present purposes, I define Armenian Studies as an

interdisciplinary field that is devoted to the study of Armenians, Armenia, Armenian diaspora communities, and the Armenian Genocide.

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

Background

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

Skills, Challenges and Opportunities

Before my arrival in 2012, our library's Armenian collections had



From UCLA Digital Collections

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

Although manuscripts, rare and common printed books, periodicals continue to remain the focus of many traditional collections, non-traditional formats such as ephemera and non-Armenian-language materials produced by local Armenian diaspora communities are increasingly of importance. Being transient in nature, if these are not preserved or collected systematically, they will be lost to the ravages of time. The development of rapport with the key community informants can be leveraged to enrich the library collections, through donors interested in helping a knowledgeable outsider in his or her collection development goals.

Upon my arrival at UC Berkeley, I conducted an environmental scan,

meeting with faculty members in History, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and other departments who had an interest in Armenian Studies. Besides meeting with key faculty members, I also met with key members of the Armenian Alumni Association and solicited their informal feedback regarding their expectations for collection development. One of the issues that I faced was the fact that our Armenian Studies collection was primarily divided between two of UC Berkeley's libraries, Doe and Bancroft. I also realized that the working relationship between the librarians at these two libraries was dynamic. It was a function of differences in understanding, vision and collection scopes, as well as perceived job-related responsibilities among the different curators and librarians. As a librarian who was responsible for developing the Armenian Studies collections at Doe Library, I focused on collaborative efforts with my colleagues at Bancroft.

I also made an effort to reach out and enlist the members of the local Armenian community in the Bay Area by attending several on-campus and off-campus lectures and events. This generated several donations of Armenian books that were published in Boston, Fresno, Glendale, and other parts of the United States in the 1950s and '60s. My own experiences in dealing with the donors and well-wishers from the local Armenian diaspora community have been rewarding. I noted that the diversity of the Armenian diaspora in the world and specifically in the United States is so immense that there are unavoidable limitations on the possibility of building a so-called “perfect collection” for all stakeholders at any given institution.

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

As of January 2018, there were 1,012 Armenian-language books held by the NRLF. Therefore, the total number of books with a publication date of 2010 or later in our Doe Library's collection is 2,615. Out of these 2,615 books, since my arrival, I was able to purchase 412. This represents approximately 16%

of the total number of titles added as a part of my strategy to rejuvenate our Armenian collections. There are currently several other libraries on campus to whom I refer Armenian titles that come in on the approval plan that I manage. I did not take into consideration these titles for the purposes of this introductory article.

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

Leveraging Digital Resources

To return to the question of born-digital Armenian Studies materials, an important part of UC Berkeley's Armenian Studies collection development strategy centers around the leveraging of current technological capabilities to harness and harvest relevant online content. To this end, I conducted a cursory survey of the

digital assets at our library that were related to Armenian Studies. I also surveyed open-access Armenian Studies e-resources located at other universities. [The Online Archive of California](#) provides us with access to metadata about 299 Armenian Studies collections indexed in the OAC. Out of these, the UC Berkeley Library deposited 49 collections.

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

One way to distinguish one's collections related to Armenian Studies would be to launch a new digital

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

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

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

Conclusion

This work highlights only a few of the issues that are associated with building, sustaining and developing Armenian Studies collections in the context of an academic library. I contend that the perfect collection of Armenian Studies materials cannot exist at a single institution, but will depend on linking of multiple collections that are

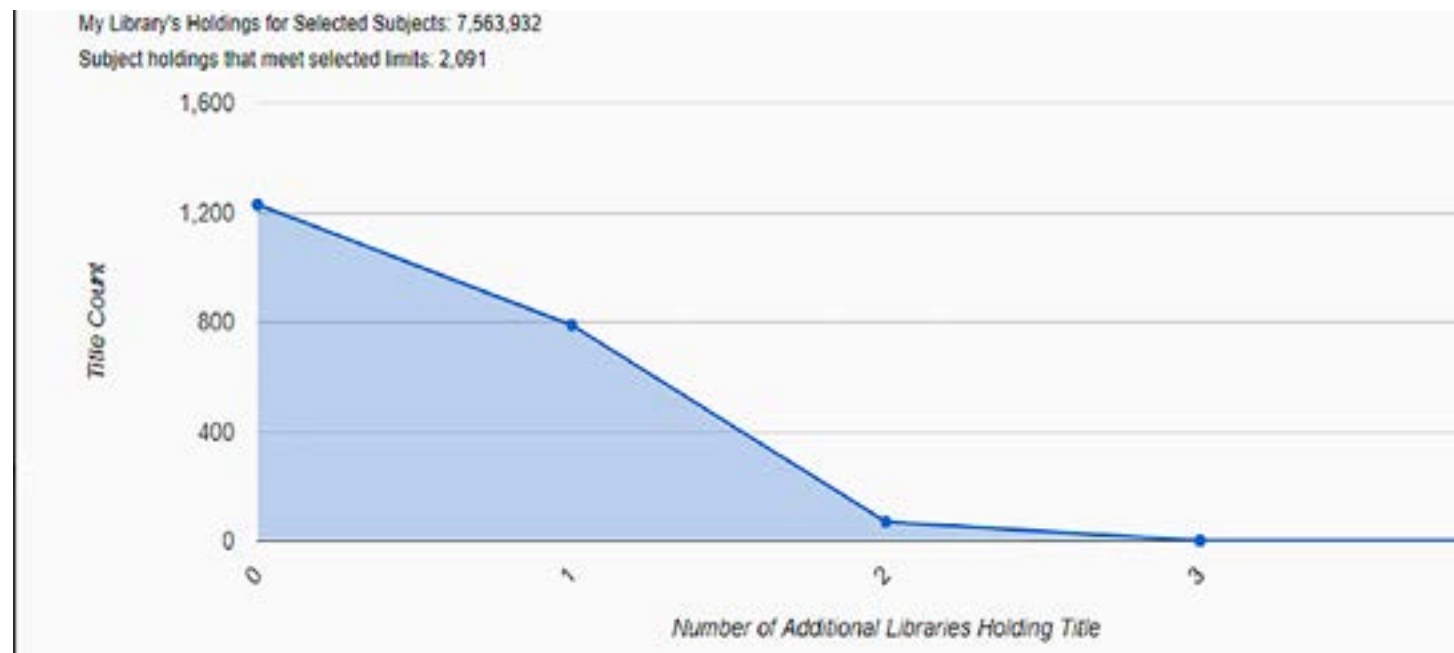
scattered across institutions. Besides the financial climates of the "new normal" that we all encounter, the paucity of Armenian Studies programs, along with their interdisciplinary nature, sometimes places Armenian Studies collections on the periphery of Slavic and East European Studies as well as Middle or Near Eastern Studies. Also both the analog and digital Armenian manuscript collections in academic libraries are proudly displayed in a fundraising context, these often represent past acquisitions that date back several decades. It is advisable that librarians responsible for Armenian Studies collections should consider an alternative collaborative collection development strategy across the multiple US academic libraries.

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

(Endnotes)

- 1 Antaramián, Carlos. *Del Ararat Al Popocatépetl: Los Armenios En México*. Mexico: Aip-Pen-Kim Ediciones, 2015. Print. I had purchased this book during my visit to Mexico using the funds that were authorized by our recently retired Latin American Studies librarian Dr. Carlos Delgado.
- 2 The data was obtained only for the completely cataloged books, as reflected in UC Berkeley's OskiCat. I chose the cutoff date of 2010 for the year of publication.
- 3 For example, as of January 2018, there were 52 titles in Armenian that were located at the Music Library.

- 4 "Search Results." Search results - Digital Scriptorium, UC Berkeley Library, <http://vm133.lib.berkeley.edu:8080/xtf3/search?rmode=digscript&smode=basic&text=armenian&docsPerPage=30>.
- 5 "Search in Digital Collections." UCLA Library | Digital Collections, UCLA, <http://digital2.library.ucla.edu/Search.do?selectedProjects=all&viewType=1&keyword=armenia>.
- 6 "Online Catalog." Center for Research Libraries Online Catalog, <http://catalog.crl.edu/search~S5>.
- 7 "CRL FY17 7 PURCHASE PROPOSAL ITEMS APPROVED FOR ACQUISITIONS." CRL, www.crl.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/pages/2017_Purchase_Proposal-Items_to_be_Acquired.pdf.
- 8 "Archive-It." Archive-It - North American Armenian Social Organizations, UC Berkeley Library, 1 Aug. 2017, <http://archive-it.org/collections/9254>.
- 9 Pendse, Liladhar. "Armenian Studies: Home." Library Guides, <http://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/subject-guide/235-Armenian-Studies>.



Ararat Eskijian Museum



Collaborating across Centers and Disciplines: PITT'S CENTRAL EURASIA INITIATIVE

Zsuzsanna Magdó and Nancy Condee

Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh

As U.S. universities globalize their pedagogical and research agendas, National Resource Centers like our own Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) embrace the opportunity to reach beyond their established regional and interdisciplinary focus in creative ways. REES's latest effort to enrich regional and global studies has been to build collaborative networks across campus in a bid to pool resources and attract interest from schools whose curricula have not historically been able to leave room for international studies. A shared effort of the REES and Pitt's Asian Studies Center (ASC), the [Central Eurasia Initiative](#) (CEI) furthers academic programming focused on this vast and diverse world area.

With an emphasis on trans-regional and global linkages, the CEI supports faculty and student engagement with a region that has been both a heartland and a frontier for worldwide processes. In the past, Silk Road cities were simultaneously nodes for epidemics and human

mobility, for geopolitical rivalries and peaceful exchange. Today, rapidly developing countries in the region are sites for competing plans of integration at a time when world powers vie over large-scale infrastructure projects to link the region's vast resources to trans-regional supply chains. Because Central Eurasia is so critical for making sense of these and other global issues, we envisage our center's increased emphasis on Central Eurasia as part of an enterprise to connect – and connect with – academic units of the university that do not usually coordinate their activities: the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the Swanson School of Engineering, the School of Business, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), the School of Law, and our parent center, the University Center for International Studies (UCIS).

The current centerpiece of the CEI is an NEH Humanities Connections Grant, awarded jointly to REES and ASC for 2018-2021. Titled "[Water in Central Asia: Tributaries of Change](#)," (see page 30) the grant enables our centers to develop a cluster of undergraduate courses that build on another while combining disciplines in atypical ways. "Central Asian Water Past" crosses history and environmental studies; "Central Asian Water Present" brings together political science and engineering; and "Central Asian Water Future" embraces both engineering and business. The thematic concentration on water in these courses reflects the contemporary significance of this topic while providing a captivating lens to study the Central Eurasian region. The courses will follow mutually supporting trajectories: encouraging

students to think about water issues on unfamiliar terrain and to explore a largely unstudied area of the world, while addressing an issue they know to be of global urgency—the need for clean, sustainable water sources.

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

Jennifer Murtazashvili in GSPIA, was selected to host the [2018 Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society](#).

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

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

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

AWSS AWARDS

CfS: Outstanding Achievement Award

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

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

CfS: 2018 AWSS Graduate Research Prize

AWSS Graduate Research Prize is awarded annually to fund promising graduate-level research in any field of Slavic/East European/Central Asian studies by a woman or on a topic in Women's or Gender Studies related to Slavic Studies/East Europe/Central Asia by a scholar of any gender. Graduate students who are at any stage of master's or doctoral-level research are eligible for this prize. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome.

A completed application consists of 1) a proposal that explains the project, how the funds will be used, and why this funding is necessary for continued progress on the project; 2) a CV; 3) a detailed budget and timeline, and 4) two letters of recommendation. Please submit application materials in MS Word or PDF. Recipients must be members of AWSS.

Applications are due by September 1, 2018. Letters of recommendation should be forwarded to the AWSS Graduate Prize Committee Chair directly. Please direct all questions and send all application materials by email attachment to Sharon Kowalsky, Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu.

CfS: 2018 AWSS Graduate Essay Prize

The prize is awarded to the author of a chapter or article-length essay on any topic in any field or area of Slavic/East European/Central Asian Studies written by a woman, or on a topic in Slavic/East European/Central Asian Women's/Gender Studies written by a woman or a man. This competition is open to current doctoral students and to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2017-2018. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2017-2018. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no longer than 50 double-spaced pages, including reference matter, and in English (quoted text in any other language should be translated). Completed submissions must be received by September 1, 2018. Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the three members of the Prize Committee as email attachments. The Prize committee consists of Amy Randall, Committee Chair, arandall@scu.edu; Adrienne Harris, Adrienne_Harris@baylor.edu; Choi Chatterjee, cchatte@calstatela.edu.

CfS: Mary Zirin Prize

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the Mary Zirin Prize in recognition of an independent scholar in the field of Slavic Studies. The award of \$500 is named for Mary Zirin, the founder of Women East-West.

Working as an independent scholar, Zirin produced and encouraged fundamental works in Slavic/East European Women's Studies and has been instrumental in the development of the AWSS. The Prize aims to recognize the achievements of independent scholars and to encourage their continued scholarship and service in the fields of Slavic or Central and Eastern European Women's Studies.

The Committee encourages the

nomination of candidates at all career stages. For the purpose of this award, an independent scholar is defined as a scholar who is not employed at an institution of higher learning, or an employee of a university or college who is not eligible to compete for institutional support for research (for example, those teaching under short-term contracts or working in administrative posts). We welcome nominations from CIS and Central and Eastern Europe.

The Zirin Prize Committee will accept nominations (including self-nominations) until September 1, 2018. Nominations must include: (1) a nomination letter of no more than two-pages double-spaced; (2) the nominee's current curriculum vitae; and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar's contribution to the field, as well as work in progress.

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

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION STANLEY Z. PECH PRIZE

The [Czechoslovak Studies Association](#) (CSA) is pleased to announce its [Stanley Z. Pech Prize Competition for 2018](#). Eligible is any article or essay (including a chapter in an edited volume) by a CSA member that concerns the history of Czechoslovakia, its successor states, or its predecessor provinces, and was published in print form in 2016 or 2017.

The Pech Prize Committee welcomes submissions from all academic disciplines, provided that they contain a substantial historical component. To apply for the Pech Prize, please email an electronic copy of your own work or that of a colleague no later than September 1, 2018 to the chair of the Pech Prize Committee: Benjamin Frommer, b-frommer@northwestern.edu

Electronic submissions of published articles should preferably be in PDF format and should be accompanied by volume and issue numbers to evidence print publication in 2016 and/or 2017. Membership in the CSA is available at

nominal cost.

The prize, as well as an honorable mention citation if awarded, will be announced at the 2018 ASEEEES Convention in Boston MA, during CSA's annual meeting.

HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION MARK PITTAWAY PRIZE

The Hungarian Studies Association is sponsoring the Mark Pittaway Prize for best scholarly article or book chapter in Hungarian studies. The award committee is seeking nominations/submissions of scholarly articles or book chapters in any field or discipline of Hungarian studies, published in English in 2016 or 2017. The prize committee particularly encourages submissions of new findings and original scholarship by junior scholars who expand the field and will benefit from the prize early in their careers.

Send nominations or submissions, including a PDF of the article or book chapter, to the award committee: Robert Nemes, (rnemes@colgate.edu); Alexander Vari, (vari@marywood.edu); and Jeff Pennington, (jpennington@berkeley.edu). In the e-mail with your nomination/submission, include a full bibliographic citation of the work. All nominations/submissions should be sent to the award committee by September 1, 2018. HSA understands that copyright rules apply, and will only use the electronic copy for the purpose of adjudicating submissions for the award. The Hungarian Studies Association will announce the recipient of the Mark Pittaway Prize at its annual meeting.

NORTH AMERICAN DOSTOEVSKY SOCIETY GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The Readers' Advisory Board of the [North American Dostoevsky Society](#) is celebrating graduate students! We invite members of NADS in good standing to nominate an outstanding graduate-student essay on a Dostoevsky-related topic. Current MA and PhD students are also welcome to nominate their own



work, NADS membership not required. The winner of the contest will receive: 1) free membership in NADS for one year; 2) free registration at the [International Dostoevsky Society Symposium](#) in Boston, July 15-19, 2019; and 3) a guaranteed spot as a presenter on the NADS-sponsored panel at AATSEEL, 2020.

To submit a nomination, please send an email containing the student's name, email address, and institutional affiliation, along with a .doc file of the essay (which should be no more than 8000 words in length and contain no identifying information about the author) to Greta Matzner-Gore at matzner@usc.edu by September 15, 2018.

SHERA NEWS

The SHERA Board will sponsor a panel at the 50th Annual ASEEEES Convention. Hanna Chuchvaha's panel "The Passion for Collecting: Collectors and Their Collections in Imperial Russia, 1800-1917," will include papers "Zinaida Volkonskaia's Allée de Souvenirs" (Laura Schlosberg); "Print Collections of Female Crafts in Late Imperial Russia" (Hanna Chuchvaha); "Reform and Rehang in the Tretyakov Gallery, 1913-1917" (Isabel Stokholm). The panel will be of interest not only to art historians but also to scholars of museology, women's studies, and visual culture.



AWSS conference attendees



[Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz](#), by Omer Bartov, was published by Simon and Shuster in January 2018. This book examines how genocide can take root at the local level, as seen in the eastern European border town of Buczacz during World War II.

For more than four hundred years, Buczacz—today part of Ukraine—was home to a highly diverse citizenry. Then came World War II, during which the entire Jewish population was murdered by German and Ukrainian police, while Ukrainian nationalists eradicated Polish residents. Bartov explains that ethnic cleansing doesn't occur with the quick ascent of a vitriolic political leader and the unleashing of military might. It begins in seeming peace, slowly and often unnoticed, and with the culmination of pent-up slights and grudges and indignities. For more than two decades Bartov traveled throughout the region, scouring archives and amassing documents. He has also made use of hundreds of first-person testimonies by victims, perpetrators, collaborators, and rescuers. *Anatomy of a Genocide* changes our understanding of the social dynamics of mass killing and the nature of the Holocaust.



[Christian Democracy Across the Iron Curtain Europe Redefined](#), edited by Piotr H. Kosicki and Sławomir Łukasiewicz, was published by Palgrave in 2018. This book explores how Christian Democracy kept Cold War Europe's eastern and western halves connected after the creation of the Iron Curtain. The first section uses case studies from the origins of European integration to reimagine Christian Democracy's long-term significance for a united Europe. The second shifts the focus to East-Central Europeans, some exiled to Western Europe, some to the US, others remaining in the Soviet Bloc as dissidents. The transnational activism they pursued helped to ensure that, Iron Curtain or no, the boundary between Europe's west and east remained permeable, that the Cold War would not last, and that Soviet attempts to divide the continent permanently would fail. The book's final section features the testimony of key participants in this history.



[Curtain of Lies: The Battle over Truth in Stalinist Eastern Europe](#), by Melissa Feinberg,



was published by Oxford University Press in June 2017. While the Cold War governments of Eastern Europe operated within the confines of the Soviet worldview, their peoples confronted the narratives of both East and West. From the Soviet Union and its satellites, they heard of a West dominated by imperialist warmongers and of the glorious future only Communism could bring. A competing discourse emanated from the West, claiming that Eastern Europe was a totalitarian land of captive slaves, powerless in the face of Soviet aggression. Feinberg examines the nature of truth, using the political culture of Eastern Europe during the Cold War. She offers an interpretation of the Cold War as a shared political environment, exploring the ways in which East Europeans interacted with these competing understandings of their homeland. She looks at the relationship between the American-sponsored radio stations broadcast across the Iron Curtain and the East European émigrés they interviewed. Feinberg reveals that these parties developed mutually reinforced assumptions about the meaning of Communism, helping to create the evidentiary foundation for totalitarian interpretations of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

Mikhail Epstein's [The Irony of the Ideal](#) (Academic Studies Press, 2018) explores the major paradoxes of Russian literature as a manifestation of both tragic and ironic contradictions of human nature and national character. Russian literature, from Pushkin and Gogol to Chekhov, Nabokov and to postmodernist writers, is studied as a holistic text that plays on the reversal of such opposites as being and nothingness, reality and simulation, and rationality and absurdity. Epstein helps us understand how the glorification of Mother Russia exposes her character as a witch; a little man is transformed into a Christ figure; consistent rationality betrays its inherent madness, and extreme verbosity produces the effect of silence. The greatest Russian writers were masters of spiritual self-denial and artistic self-destruction, which explains many paradoxes and unpredictable twists of Russian history up to our time.

The collection of essays published by Vladislav Rjéoutski and Willem Frijhoff in [Language Choice in Enlightenment Europe: Education, Sociability, and Governance](#) (Amsterdam University Press, 2018) challenges the traditional image of a monolingual Ancien Régime. During the intense economic and cultural exchange of the Enlightenment period, new forms of sociability and corporate culture emerged everywhere in Europe, and multilingualism played a major role in the genesis of our modern societies. Various languages were used in different social and professional contexts, and had different educational and political functions. The rise of vernacular languages contrasted with Latin in the field of learning, French as a lingua franca for the elites, or German, English, Italian, and other languages, used extensively by non-native speakers in multilingual settings such as the Russian Empire, the Habsburg monarchy, and early modern France, including a country without a strong linguistic policy such as the Netherlands. The essays highlight the unexpected riches of multi- and plurilingualism, the competition between languages, and their impact on national consciousness.

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

[Performance Art in the Second Public Sphere](#), edited by Katalin Cseh-Varga and Adam Czirik (Routledge, 2018), analyzes performance art in East, Central and Southeast Europe under socialist rule. By investigating the specifics

of event-based art forms in these regions, each chapter explores the particular, critical roles that this work assumed under censorial circumstances.

The artistic networks of Yugoslavia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia are discussed with a particular focus on the discourses that shaped artistic practice at the time, drawing on the methods of Performance Studies and Media Studies as well as more familiar reference points from art history and area studies.

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

Explaining the economic policies that underwrote Putin's two-decade-long rule, Miller shows how, at every juncture, Putinomics has served Putin's needs by guaranteeing economic stability and supporting his accumulation of power. Even in the face of Western financial sanctions and low oil prices, Putin has never been more relevant on the world stage.

[Race and the Yugoslav Region: Postsocialist, Post-Conflict, Postcolonial?](#), by Catherine Baker, was published by Manchester University Press in 2018. This is the first book to situate the territories and collective identities of former Yugoslavia within the politics of race—not just ethnicity—and the history of how ideas of racialized difference have been translated globally. The book connects critical race scholarship, global historical sociologies of “race in translation” and south-east European cultural critique to show that the Yugoslav region is deeply embedded in global formations of race. In doing this, it considers the everyday



geopolitical imagination of popular culture; the history of ethnicity, nationhood and migration; transnational formations of race before and during state socialism, including the Non-Aligned Movement; and post-Yugoslav discourses of security, migration, terrorism and international intervention, including the War on Terror and the present refugee crisis.

[Russia's Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914-22, Book 3: National Disintegration](#), edited by Christopher Read, Peter Waldron, and Adele Lindenmeyr, is now available from Slavica Publishers.

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

[The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921](#), by Mark Steinberg, (Oxford University Press), is a new history of Russia's revolutionary era as a story of experience—of people making sense of history as it unfolded in their own lives and as they took part in making history themselves. The events, trends, and explanations, reaching from Bloody Sunday in 1905 to the final shots of the civil war in 1921, are viewed through the doubled perspective of the professional historian looking backward and the contemporary journalist reporting and interpreting history as it happened. The volume then turns toward particular places and people: city streets, peasant villages, the margins of empire (Central Asia, Ukraine, the Jewish Pale), women and men, workers and

intellectuals, artists and activists, utopian visionaries, and discontents of all kinds. Key themes include difference and inequality, power and resistance, violence, and ideas about justice and freedom. This history relies extensively on contemporary texts and voices in order to bring the past and its meanings to life. This is a history about dramatic and uncertain times and especially about the interpretations, values, emotions, desires, and disappointments that made history matter to those who lived it.

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

[Soviet Americana: The Cultural History of Russian and Ukrainian Americanists](#), by Sergei Zhuk, was released in March 2018 in the US by I.B. Taurus.

The Americanist community played a vital role in the Cold War, as well as in large part directing the cultural consumption of Soviet society and shaping perceptions of the US. To shed light on this academic community, Zhuk explores the personal histories of prominent Soviet Americanists, considering the myriad cultural influences - from John Wayne's bravado in the film Stagecoach to Miles Davis - that shaped their identities, careers and academic interests. Zhuk's account draws on a wide range of archival documents, periodicals, letters and diaries as well as more than 100 interviews with Americanists to take the reader from



the post-war origins of American studies, via the extremes of the Cold War, thaw and perestroika, to Putin's Russia. *Soviet Americana* is a comprehensive insight into shifting attitudes towards the US throughout the twentieth century.

[The Velizh Affair: Blood Libel in a Russian Town](#), by Eugene M. Avrutin, was published by Oxford University Press in December 2017.

On April 22, 1823, a three-year-old boy named Fedor went to play outside. Fedor never returned home. Several days later, a neighbor found his mutilated body drained of blood and repeatedly pierced. It did not take long before rumors began to emerge that Jews murdered the little boy.

The Velizh Affair reconstructs the lives of Jews and their Christian neighbors caught up in the aftermath of this criminal act. The investigation into Fedor's death resulted in the charging of forty-three Jews with ritual murder, theft and desecration of Church property, and the forcible conversion of three town residents. Drawing on newly discovered trial records, Avrutin explores the factors that not only caused fear and conflict

in everyday life, but also the social and cultural worlds of a multiethnic population that had coexisted for hundreds of years.

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



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2018 ASEES DISSERTATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ala Creciu, History, University of Maryland, College Park, "Refashioning the Russian Monarchy: The Press, Nationalism, and Political Legitimacy in Alexander III's Russia"

Giulia Dossi, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, "Sideshow: Medical and Literary Grotesques in Late Imperial Russia"

*Marek Eby, History, New York University, "Vectors of Socialism: Malaria Control and Stalinist Power in Central Asia"

Karolina Kolpak, History, Yale University, "Janusz Korczak: Between and Beyond Identities"

Mariia Koskina, History, SUNY Binghamton, "Work Hard for Communism, Comrade Yenisei!: Hydroelectric Development and Environmental Impacts in Cold War Comparison, 1956-1972"

Michael Lavery, Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles, "Soviet Translations of Latin American Literature, 1959-1970"

Milorad Lazic, History, George Washington University, "Comrades in Arms: Yugoslav Military Aid to Africa and the Global Cold War in the 1970s"

Mathilde Lind, Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University Bloomington, "Interweaving: Estonian Craftsmanship and National Identity"

Emily Lipira, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Trans-Siberian Futurism: David Burluk and Modernity in Revolutionary Russia's Periphery, 1910-1920"

Hilary Lynd, History, University of California, Berkeley, "The Soviet Union is for South Africans a Big Crystal Ball: The National Question and the Cold War's End"

Ashley Morse, Slavic Languages & Literatures, Harvard University, "Miracle, Mystery, Authority: The Rise of Governmentality in Early Modern Russia"

Oksana Nesterenko, Music, SUNY Stony Brook, "A Forbidden Fruit? Religion, Spirituality and Music in the USSR before its Fall (1968 -1989)"

Viktoria Paranyuk, Slavic Languages and Literatures/Film and Media Studies, Yale University, "In Search of True Realism: The Cinema of the Soviet Thaw"

*Ivana Polic, History, University of California, San Diego, "The (Re)Making of Young Patriots: Shaping Childhood Experience through Education, Media, and Children's Literature in Post-Yugoslav Croatia and Serbia (1991-2000)"

Kaspar Pucek, History, Princeton University, "The Post-Communist Divergence: Economic Governance and Development in Russia and Poland, c. 1970-Present"

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

* indicates Alternate

GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS FOR 2018 ACTR ESSAY CONTEST

Winners wrote a short essay based on the topic: "My city. / Мой город."

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

Category B
Balsa Dragovic, Harvard University
Anastasia Akopova, Columbia University
Aleksandra Milcheva, Harvard University
Thu Nga Duong, Dickinson College

Category C
Dorothy Madubuko, Columbia University
Valeriya Timoshenko, Rutgers University
Elena Lazareva, Carnegie Mellon University
Sergii Kalinichenko, Defense Language Institute, CE, DTRA
Nikita Trofimov, Defense Language Institute, CE, DTRA

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

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

Dassia Posner (Theatre and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Northwestern University): “The Moscow Kamerny Theatre: An Artistic History, 1914-1950”

ACLS announces the 2018 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellows. The 67 fellows, who hail from 34 US universities, were selected from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants. The program offers promising graduate students a year of funding so that they can focus their attention on completing projects that form the foundations of their scholarly careers.

Emily Laskin (Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley): “Geopoetics and Geopolitics: Landscape, Empire, and the Literary Imagination in the Great Game”

John B. Seitz (History, Iowa State University): “Science and the Steppe: Agronomists, Nomads, and the Settler Colony on the Kazakh Steppe, 1881-1917”

William Craft Brumfield was named Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies at Tulane University. He also delivered a lecture, entitled “[Avant-garde Architecture in the Photographer’s Lens](#)” at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center.

[HSS/NASA Fellowship in the History of Space Science](#) was awarded to **Andy Bruno** (Northern Illinois University.) He will use the fellowship to study the history of the mysterious Tunguska

explosion of 1908 that happened over a desolate region of Siberia and the efforts by amateurs, scientists, and even science fiction writers to understand it. Bruno will use research surrounding the event and the contested explanations to illuminate various aspects of Soviet science during the Cold War.

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

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

Martin Nekola launched [Czechoslovak Talks](#), a project that was created in 2016 with support from the Dotek Endowment Fund. Nekola’s endeavor preserves the life stories of Czechoslovaks from around the world and are designed to be an inspiration and a lesson in life, especially for future generations.

Kenneth Nyirady was appointed Head of the European Reading Room at the Library of Congress. Nyirady has served since 1990 in the European Division as a reference specialist. Nyirady serves as the recommending officer for Hungarian and related languages in Russia, e.g. Komi, and assists with Russian-language acquisitions. He has merited numerous awards at the Library, including for his work on a team testing the Voyager Integrated Library System, for chairing working groups on Web archiving, and as the European Division’s Webmaster.

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

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

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

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Christopher Read, Peter Waldron, and Adele Lindenmeyr, eds. *Russia’s Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914–22, bk. 3, National Disintegration*, xxii + 375 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-429-1), \$44.95; **bk. 4, Reintegration—The Struggle for the State**, xviii + 514 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-428-4), \$44.95.

The revolutions of 1917 brought catastrophe upon catastrophe: famine; economic collapse and, in 1918–20, flight from the hell of starving cities. Political struggles became civil war. Terrible antisemitic pogroms occurred. The multiple crises engendered epidemics which ravaged malnourished bodies. On top of the war dead some ten million died in the Civil War, mainly from disease. The 34 contributions to books 3 and 4 of RGWR’s *Home Front* volume shine a piercing light on these events. From broad accounts of

the demographic consequences to detailed studies of particular issues, these chapters take us to the cutting edge of contemporary scholarship.

John Reed. Ten Days That Shook the World, ed. William Benton Whisenhunt, xxiii + 301 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-459-8), \$34.95.

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



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

Vol. 19, no. 2 (Spring 2018)

Forum: Food, Wine, and Leisure in the Black Sea Region

DIANE P. KOENKER

The Taste of Others

CAROL B. STEVENS

Shabo

STEPHEN V. BITTNER

A Problem of Taste

JOHANNA CONTERIO

“Our Black Sea Coast”

Articles

IGOR FEDYUKIN

The “German” Reign of Empress Anna

MALTE ROLF

Between State Building and Local Cooperation

History and Historians

An Interview with Robert Edelman

Review Essay

ALEXANDRA OBERLÄNDER

Beam Me Up/Out/Elsewhere, Tovarishch

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

2018 COHEN-TUCKER DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWS

Lyudmila Austin

History, Michigan State University
"Migration, Nation and Selfhood in the Northern Caucasus since the 1970s"

Austin's research explores the migration of the Russian-speaking population since the late-Soviet period, which concentrates on a case-study of migration to the Northern Caucasus. She focuses on the heterogeneous, complicated circumstances relevant to this migration, which included not only the fraught "return" of millions of ethnic Russians to their titular nation, but also the movement of other displaced people to Russia. By focusing on the Northern Caucasus, she analyzes how influxes of inter-ethnic migration, which included the arrival of many ethnic Russians who showed more affinity to their Soviet rather than ethnic or local affiliations, have affected social dynamics in the region. Austin investigates not only how regional policies attempted to institutionalize responses to these in-

migrants, but also how "groupness"—as a relational and contextual process—transformed at the local level as a result. More explicitly, she considers to what extent—and how—influxes of various migrants contested and contributed to a space that changed dramatically over time as a result of numerous interconnected Soviet structural issues.

Michael Coates

History, University of California, Berkeley

"The Sources of Soviet Knowledge: A History of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*"

Coates' project is a history of the writing of the three editions of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*. The *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* was intended to be a revolutionary encyclopedia of a new type, which would transform the way its readers viewed the world. It was to be the tool that would lay the groundwork for the development of

an entirely new system of knowledge rooted in the Marxist principles of dialectical materialism. It was to break down the barriers between the disciplines erected by "bourgeois", anti-materialist scholarship and to reconstruct humanity's knowledge in a new, distinctly Soviet way. The precise interpretations of this task shifted from edition to edition, and at times the project took on a sharply nationalist tone. The vicissitudes of the encyclopedia project reflect the vicissitudes of the Soviet state's changing attitudes towards and views on the usage of knowledge and culture.

Rebecca Hastings

History, University of Oregon
"The Oil Industry and Social Development in Azerbaijan, 1860-2015"

Hastings' dissertation explores the history of community-formation around the oil industry of Baku,

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

Rebecca Johnston

History, University of Texas at Austin
"The Soviet Ministry of Culture: Governing Enlightenment after Stalin"

This is a study of the Soviet Ministry of Culture, from its conception in 1953 through the end of the Brezhnev era in 1982. The Ministry of Culture was an unwieldy fusion of six institutions responsible for everything from radio broadcasting and the circus to secondary education and the

labor reserves. Its structure and staff changed rapidly and often during its initial years, as it failed to effectively handle such a broad mandate. Despite its role as chief executor of Soviet cultural policy for more than forty years, the ministry has received virtually no scholarly attention. Historians have long argued that culture in the Soviet Union was a vital tool for ideological indoctrination, and, in turn, industrial and agricultural productivity. But the Ministry of Culture tells a different story. Johnston's dissertation will redefine our understanding of Khrushchev's cultural "thaw" and Brezhnev's proceeding crackdown by demonstrating how late Soviet leaders shifted away from a conception of culture as a vital component of the Soviet project and left cultural institutions to thrive or decay in the wake of their neglect.

Karl Krotke-Crandall

History, Washington State University
"The Holocaust in Russian Life: New Perspectives on Soviet Jewish Memory"

Krotke-Crandall's project explores the creation of collective memories of Soviet Jews by unpacking the influence of public-Soviet narratives on private-familial memories. By conducting oral history interviews and using qualitative analysis, his project seeks to explore

how the collective memories of this Jewish body have changed over time through the exposure of the Soviet public narrative.

Andrei Tcacenco

History, University of California, Santa Cruz

"The Culture of Complaint: Morality and Intimacy in the USSR, 1953-Present"

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

The CTRDF Program is sponsored by the KAT Charitable Foundation, which we thank for its generous support.



KAREN DAWISHA



Karen Dawisha died on April 11, 2018 in Oxford, Ohio. She was 68. Born on December 2, 1949: she became interested in Russia after taking a Russian-language course in high school.

Dawisha went on to study Russian politics at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She received her doctoral degree at the London School of Economics and won a full professorship at the University of Maryland at College Park before joining Miami University in 2000.

Dawisha, a professor of political science at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University in Oxford, distilled her research into *Putin's Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?* (2014). The book argued that corruption and authoritarianism in Russia were not byproducts of the country's emergence from communism but rather building blocks of a plan devised in the early 1990s by Putin and a circle of trusted associates. Many were, like him, former KGB officers who were appalled by the breakup of the Soviet Union. Officials in Congress and the State Department consulted with Dawisha after the book was published, and the president of Lithuania distributed copies of it to members of the European Parliament. Dawisha had spent much of her career on more conventional subjects, like Russia's electoral system, but relished the chance to do primary research. Unlike most investigative journalists, she had the advantage of extended time to do the spadework and access to sources who were reluctant to speak to reporters. Dawisha knew that her book project would be controversial, but felt that her professional status allowed her to take the risk.

Dawisha was the author or co-author of six books before *Putin's Kleptocracy*, including *Eastern Europe, Gorbachev, and Reform: The Great Challenge* (1988), and *Soviet Foreign Policy Towards Egypt* (1979).

[Excerpted from the New York Times obituary](#)

OLGA E. KAGAN



Olga E. Kagan passed away on, April 6, 2018. A member of the UCLA community since 1981, she was Coordinator of the Department's language programs and Undergraduate Adviser, as well as Director of the UCLA Russian Flagship program. She served simultaneously as Director of the International Institute's Center for World Languages and its National Heritage Language Resource Center. Kagan maintained an active research agenda and carried a teaching load that included both graduate and undergraduate courses.

Kagan received an MA from the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute and her doctorate from Moscow's Pushkin State Russian Language Institute. Kagan emerged as one of the country's leading specialists on second language acquisition, in particular heritage language teaching. She co-authored eleven Russian-language textbooks, as well as numerous articles and book chapters on heritage language studies. Among her best known publications is *Russian for Russians*, a textbook co-authored with Tatiana Akishina and Richard Robin (2000). She was a Member of the Board of Directors of ACTR (1991-

DAVID ROBINSON



David Franklin Robinson, 82, died Saturday, April 14, 2018. He was born July 14, 1935 and received a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Swarthmore College and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to graduate school, he served in the United States Army military intelligence from 1958 to 1961.

He retired in 1993 as an Associate Professor from The Ohio State University Department of Slavic Languages where he taught Russian linguistics for 27 years. He served as chair

of the department for six of those years. He led several student trips to the former Soviet Union and as a Fulbright Scholar, studied in Paris, Rome, London, and Sofia, Bulgaria.

A skilled musician, he was an accomplished pianist, organist and harpsichordist. He was an organist at his church for more than 30 years and was a keyboardist for numerous theater groups, vocal ensembles, concerts and community events. A talented improvisational and classical musician, he especially had a passion for baroque music. For more than 20 years, he was harpsichordist for the annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

2010), and served on the Steering Committee of the University of California Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. In 2014, Kagan brought the Language Flagship Annual Meeting to UCLA. She served on the International Institute's Faculty Advisory Committee and secured and sustained the Title VI National Heritage Language Resource Center. She was a founding co-editor of the *Heritage Language Journal*.

Kagan was a co-recipient of both the 2001 and 2004 AATSEEL Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy Book Prize for the edited volume *The Teaching and Learning of Slavic Languages and Cultures and Russian for Russians*, respectively. In 2003 she was honored with AATSEEL's Excellence in Teaching at the Post-Secondary Level award. In January 2015, at a special session of the MLA annual conference, the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages presented her with the lifetime achievement award for Distinguished Service to the Profession. At the Third International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages held on the UCLA Campus in February 2018, Kagan's colleagues presented her with a volume of essays titled *Connecting across Languages and Cultures: A Heritage Language Festschrift in Honor of Olga Kagan*, compiled and edited by Susan Bauckus and Susan Kresin (Slavica Publishers, 2018).

Adapted from obituary by Ronald Vroon

[Excerpted from Columbus Dispatch obituary](#)



SPRING 2018 ASEES FIRST BOOK SUBVENTION RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the ASEES First Book Subvention Recipients for Spring 2018:

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS, for Rachel Applebaum (Tufts University), *Empire of Friends: Soviet Power and Socialist Internationalism in Cold War Czechoslovakia*

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PRESS, for Iva Glisic (University of Western Australia), *The Futurist Files: Avant-Garde, Politics and Ideology in Russia, 1905–1930*

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS, for R. Chris Davis (Lone Star College), *Hungarian Religion, Romanian Blood: A Minority's Struggle for National Belonging*

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

FELLOWSHIPS WITH AMERICAN COUNCILS

FULBRIGHT-HAYS GROUP PROJECTS ABROAD

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

TITLE VIII FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED OVERSEAS LANGUAGE STUDY

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

TITLE VIII RESEARCH PROGRAM

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

TITLE VIII COMBINED RESEARCH & LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

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



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acResearchAbroad.org



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

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

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

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

The larger goals of the workshop are to build a community of pre-dissertation PhD students in the social sciences studying

Russia, to promote networking and professionalization opportunities for emerging scholars with prominent faculty in the social sciences, and to expose emerging scholars to innovative methodological approaches in the social sciences.

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE
AT THE WILSON CENTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Kennan Institute welcomes:

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

Title VIII Short Term Scholars
Tricia Starks, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas, “Save the Men: Public Response to the Soviet Demographic Crisis”
Monica Steinberg, Doheny Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Southern California, “Humor and Subtle Activism in Contemporary Azerbaijani Art”

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

Title VIII Summer Research Scholars
Lauren Woodard, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “The Politics of Return: Migration, Race, and Belonging in Russia’s Far East”

Timothy Model, PhD Candidate, Indiana University, “The Politics of Anti-Corruption Campaigns”

George F. Kennan Fellows
Ekaterina Moiseeva, Researcher, Institute for the Rule of Law, European University in St. Petersburg, “Reforming the Legal Profession: A Maturity Test for Civil Society in Russia”

Marcin Kaczmarek, Assistant Professor, Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw, “The New Silk Road and the Eurasian Union: Can Russia and China square the circle?”

Inna Melnykovska, “Assistant Professor, Central European University, “Big Business, Capital Mobility and Crony Capitalism in Russia and Ukraine. Stabilizing and Transformative Powers of Global Finance” June – September 2018

James Billington Fellows
Natalie Rouland, Independent Scholar, “Power on Pointe: Russian Ballet and the Body Politic”

George F. Kennan Experts
Sergey Parkhomenko, Journalist, “Echo of Moscow” Radio, “Creation of an Independent Media Platform in Russia”

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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

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



PUSHKIN HOUSE



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

The prize showcases, promotes and encourages the best accessible non-fiction writing in English about Russia and the Russian-speaking world. This year’s shortlist included works translated from Russian and French.

The judges also singled out for commendation [Other Russias](#). by Victoria Lomasko and translated by Thomas Campbell, as the best book in translation.

The 2018 shortlisted titles are:

- [Armageddon and Paranoia: The Nuclear Confrontation](#). Rodric Braithwaite (Profile Books)
- [Stalin’s Meteorologist: One Man’s Untold Story of Love, Life, and Death](#). Olivier Rolin. (Penguin) translated from the French by Ros Schwartz
- [The House of Government: A Saga of the Russian Revolution](#). Yuri Slezkine. (Princeton University Press)
- [Gorbachev: His Life and Times](#). William Taubman. (Simon & Schuster)

In the 1950s–1960s, he created icons and religious murals for Orthodox Christian churches throughout the United States.

The Pimen M. Sofronov Collection in the Hilandar Research Library includes over 800 books from his personal library. The collection contains working drawings, pricked papers, sketches, and a number of images from newspapers, magazines, and books that inspired his work. Photographs of his work, exhibit catalogs, samples of his students' work, and correspondence complement the original drawings and provide context for this working iconographer's life.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Pitt's REES Awarded NEH Humanities Connections Implementation Grant for [Innovative Interdisciplinary Courses on Water in Central Asia](#).

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Asian Studies Center (ASC) were recently awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to strengthen interdisciplinary connections across the humanities, social sciences, business and engineering programs. Led by REES Director Nancy Condee and Director of the World History Center Ruth Mostern, the curriculum design team will develop undergraduate courses with linked student engagement activities on the theme of Water in Central Asia. Historically a meeting point for peoples across Eurasia and home of the world's largest pre-modern empire, Central Asia today is a place of geopolitical tension and struggle for access to natural resources, crucially including water, and the site of the longest war in U.S. history. To enroll a broad range of students, the new course cluster will enrich offerings in Pitt's Sustainable Development Certificate, the Engineering for Humanity Certificate, and REES and ASC credentials.

Patryk Reid (environmental historian of Russia and Eurasia) will develop the course Central Asian Water Past: Climate Change in the Preindustrial Era; Colin Johnson (expert

in politics of development, conflict and migration in the former USSR) will develop Central Asian Water Present: Engineering in the Industrial Post-Empire; John Camillus will develop Central Asian Water Future: Encounters in the Anthropocene; and David Sanchezwill integrate engineering perspectives into all three courses. The project co-directors (Condee and Mostern) and other Pitt humanities faculty will work closely with the team to enrich interdisciplinary content with literary, artistic and cultural resources, including the Pitt library's Central Asian film collection.

All courses will incorporate experiential learning activities, including mentored research projects that students will present at Pitt's European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium, as well as virtual peer-to-peer exchanges with students at Nazarbayev University.

Incorporating historical and humanistic content will teach students that science, business, and technology are entangled with human narrative arcs; they restructure power relations and emerge from them, and they manifest in artistic and spiritual practices as well as technocratic ones.

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SPOTLIGHT: DAN HEALEY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



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

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

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

How have your interests changed since then?

In graduate school (Toronto again!) I was fascinated by the unwritten history of homosexuality in modern Russia and I hoped that fieldwork in the opening archives of the 1990s would enable this unusual project. I was very lucky to have marvellous supervisors (Lynne Viola, Susan Gross Solomon) whose confidence and rigor put wind in my sails. Queer history took me down many pathways: the history of Russian

and Soviet medicine, of psychiatry, of police and penal institutions, of masculinity.

What is your current research/work project?

I have a long-delayed book-in-progress on the history of medical care in the Gulag camps. If I mention it here it will force me to get moving and put a smile on my editor's face! My forthcoming book, however, is titled *Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi* (London & New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018), which examines nine 'case histories' that reveal the origins and evolution of homophobic attitudes in modern Russia. I assert that the nation's contemporary homophobia can be traced back to the particular experience of revolution, political terror and war its people endured after 1917. The book explores the roots of homophobia in the Gulag, the rise of a visible queer presence in Soviet cities after Stalin, and the political battles since 1991 over whether queer Russians can be valued citizens. I also reflect on the problems of 'memorylessness' for Russia's LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) movement more broadly and the obstacles it faces in trying to write its own history. The book makes use of little-known source material - much of it untranslated archival documentation - to explore how Russians have viewed same-sex love and gender transgression since the mid-20th century.

What do you value about your ASEES membership?

The friendships I've made and the conversations I've had at ASEES conventions have been some of

the most interesting and exciting encounters of my professional career. There's no doubt that the organisation inspires and energises me year after year. And I met my husband at ASEES: Mark Cornwall in Boston in 1996. He's the Eastern European 'fox' to my Russian 'hedgehog' (with apologies to Isaiah Berlin).

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

I am slowly working my way through the novels of Michel Tremblay in the original Québécois. There are as many characters in them as in Tolstoy's worlds, so it's a challenge.

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Daugavpils, Latvia

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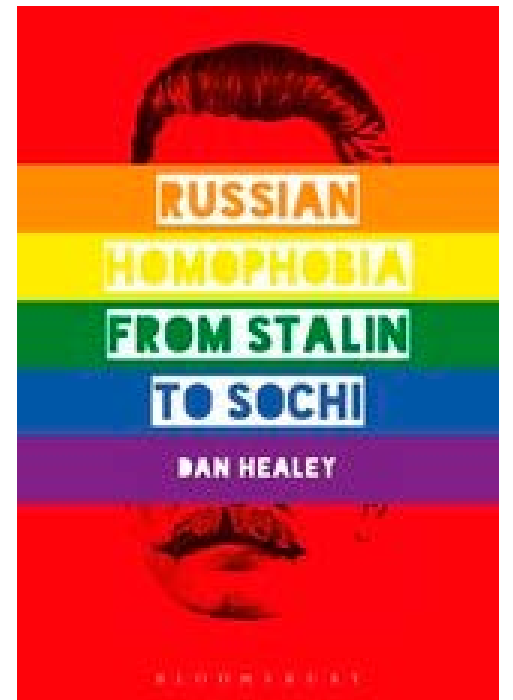
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