

ASEEES NewsNet


Over a River Strangely Rosy:
Reading Poetry in Wartime

ASEEES Statements on
Russia's War on Ukraine

Full Historiographical
Legitimacy to Ukraine

Exploring Career Diversity:
A Successful Mentorship Experience

Spotlight on PONARS:
New Approaches to Research and Security
in Eurasia



ASEEES SEEKS SLAVIC REVIEW EDITOR

ASEEES seeks letters of interest from ASEEES members who may be interested in serving as the *Slavic Review* Editor for a five-year term, August 2023-August 2028. Prospective editor must be an active ASEEES member and tenured professor in SEEES at a US university or college.

The Prospective editor's host institution should be able to buy out two courses per academic year to facilitate the editor's 20+ hours/week of commitment to *Slavic Review*, and provide support for two 25%-time graduate editorial interns and furnished office space to house the editorial office plus HR and IT support. ASEEES provides funding for one-month summer salary for the editor and one 25%-time graduate editorial intern.

Please send letters of interest to Lynda Park, ASEEES Executive Director by May 1, 2022.

The letter is not a binding proposal, but should indicate serious interest as well as anticipated level of support and relevant infrastructure in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies at their home institution.

Please direct any inquiries to Mark Steinberg, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and chair of the *Slavic Review* Committee, or Lynda Park.

Over a River Strangely Rosy: Reading Poetry in Wartime

Joan Neuberger, University of Texas at Austin

ASEEES Statements on Russia's War on Ukraine

Full Historiographical Legitimacy to Ukraine

Andrii Portnov, European University Viadrina
Tetiana Portnova, Dnipro National Historical Museum

Exploring Career Diversity: A Successful Mentorship Experience

Sabina Amanbayeva, Oklahoma City University and
Nina Murray, U.S. Department of State

Spotlight on PONARS: New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia

Marlene Laruelle, George Washington University

[Personages](#)

[Affiliate Group News](#)

[Institutional Member News](#)

[Publications](#)

[Call for Nominations for 2022 ASEEES Prizes/Awards](#)

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
203C Bellefield Hall
, 315 S. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424
tel.: 412-648-9911 • fax: 412-648-9815
e-mail: aseees@pitt.edu
www.aseees.org

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

ASEEES Staff

- NewsNet Editor & Program Coordinator: Trevor Erlacher
412-648-7403, aseees.grants@pitt.edu
- Executive Director: Lynda Park
412-648-9788, lypark@pitt.edu
- Deputy Director & Director of Membership: Kelly McGee
412- 238-7354, kmcgee@pitt.edu
- Communications Coordinator: Mary Arnstein
412-648-9809, newsnet@pitt.edu
- Administrative Assistant: Jenn Legler
412-648-9911, aseees@pitt.edu
- Convention Manager: Margaret Manges
412-648-4049, aseeescn@pitt.edu
- Financial Support: Roxana Palomino
412-648-4049, aseeesfn@pitt.edu

Over a River Strangely Rosy: Reading Poetry in Wartime

Joan Neuberger, University of Texas at Austin

Editor's note: This letter was finalized on March 16, 2022.

I spent most of my life not reading poetry. Right now it's the only language that makes sense to me.

But I can't *write* poetry, so I don't have the words I need to talk about the subject that preoccupies all of us: the vicious, criminal, irrational Russian war on Ukraine and the lies that the Russian government is using to justify its plunder and murder.

And my familiar historical voice – narrative, engaged, analytical – appears to have fled. As if it wants to escape the carnage, the need to understand and explain, the tangled complications that come with loving and identifying in some way with this whole region.

Some of my colleagues in History and Political Science do have words, though, and I am full of admiration for people who have managed to pull their thoughts together to say something important about these incomprehensible events as they unfold, something to counter the Russian government's lies: [Francine Hirsch](#) on memory politics and war crimes; [Mark Edele](#) on Putin's paranoia; [Victoria Smolkin](#), [Rebecca Adeline Johnston](#), and [Matthew Lenoe](#) on Putin's and Medinsky's nationalist-fantasy history; [Rory Finnin](#) on misunderstanding Ukraine; [John Connelly](#) on Ukrainian democracy and Russian empire; [Nicholas Mulder](#) on sanctions; [Hilary Lynd](#) and [Adam Tooze](#) on the view from Africa; [Sasha Razor](#) on the view from Belarus; [Maksim Trudolyubov](#) and [Tony Wood](#) on "how to lose a war by starting one"; [Keith Gessen](#) on "how we got here"; and the many daily observations and acts of witness appearing in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *New York Magazine*, and [elsewhere](#).

When I say I can't write about this, I know it's a dodge. It's my job to explain things about Russia and its various incarnations of empire. I know how to do that, and I've been doing it for a long time. I consider scholarship to be as necessary as anything humans do, and I'll defend the most arcane academic writing and the most accessible public-

scholarship. But, in this moment, analysis seems to me to be somehow incomprehensible and profoundly unsatisfying. This is, perhaps, not terribly surprising coming from someone who thinks that a troubled, and censored, and unfinished movie tells us as much about Stalin and Stalinism as anything else we have.

I'm not alone though.

Here is the prolific Ukrainian writer, [Andrey Kurkov](#), in *The Guardian*:

"I have long since run out of words to describe the horror brought by Putin to Ukrainian soil. ... It's the time of year to prepare the fields for sowing, but this work is not being done. The soil of the wheat fields is full of metal – fragments of shells, pieces of blown-up tanks and cars, the remains of downed planes and helicopters. And it's all covered in blood. The blood of Russian soldiers who do not understand what they are fighting for, and the blood of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians who know that if they do not fight, Ukraine will no longer exist. In its place there will be a cemetery with a caretaker's hut and some kind of governor general sent from Russia will sit and guard it."

And on Twitter, [Nika Melkozerova](#), the stalwart Ukrainian journalist, writes:

"I am one of 2 million people left in Kyiv, once a busy vibrant city of more than 4 million. Now it is almost empty. Ravens have become so loud. People are silent, sad and polite. It's the 18th day of Russia's war against Ukraine. And I can't digest how the world let this happen."

I have been reading about this region of the world since I was a teenager. Since February 24, I've been reading all day long and well into the night, what seem to be genuinely insightful essays by scholars I admire, and I still can't digest how the world let this happen. Russia's war on Ukraine feels both very close and very far away.

So poetry.

It was Odesa-born Ilya Kaminsky's 2019 poetry collection, *Deaf Republic*, that first whetted my appetite for poetry.¹ When I read the opening poem of that collection for the first time, *We Lived Happily During the War*, I couldn't do anything else for the rest of the day. I wasn't surprised that it went viral when the Russian invasion began.

And when they bombed other people's houses, we
 protested
 but not enough, we opposed them but not
 enough. I was
 in my bed, around my bed America
 was falling: invisible house by invisible house by invisible
 house—
 I took a chair outside and watched the sun.
 In the sixth month
 Of a disastrous reign in the house of money
 in the street of money in the city of money in the country of
 money.
 our great country of money, we (forgive us)
 lived happily during the war.

My whole life has been punctuated by alternately protesting and reckoning with complicity in wars my country (and my adopted country) has perpetrated on others. My first immersive political experience was watching the Vietnam war on TV when I was in high school. We saw lies exposed, imperialism and military power escalated; and defeated. I spent my weekends going to anti-war rallies. But I never had to put myself in a position to get arrested and I was in no danger of being drafted. My suburban demonstrations were as much about meeting boys and listening to the Jefferson Airplane as they were for protest. After the draft lottery was introduced, our family orthodontist pulled my mother aside to tell her that he could get an exemption for my brother. The horror of My Lai is seared into my brain, but Vietnam was far away, and we lived pretty happily during the war.

Kaminsky ends his recent [essay about poetry in a time of crisis](#) with his trademark combination of the quotidian and the timeless.² One of his friends in Odesa counters panic food buying by "trying to do art. Read out loud. Trying to distract myself." Another friend, a journalist, asks him to send poems and essays because they are putting together a literary magazine. "In the middle of war," Kaminsky notes dryly, "he is asking for poems."

In January this year I finally read the Russian writer [Teffi's memoir](#) of fleeing the Bolsheviks into Ukraine in 1918.³ Her vivid account of the worlds she encountered and her wry descriptions of the nearly constant fear, and the assortment of forms fear can take, haunted me when I was reading it and haunts me even more now when what she described is being reenacted in all the same places. Villages along railway lines, Kyiv, Odesa. At one point her friends in Kyiv, other writers

DEAF REPUBLIC



from Petersburg and Moscow, are talking about starting a literary magazine, which in Teffi's view, and in mine, when reading it two months ago, seemed ridiculous, an act of denial of the reality closing in on them. Today though, Kaminsky's friend's project seems like a perfectly reasonable response to catastrophe, perhaps the only alternative to pulling up a chair to watch the sun.

Also on Twitter this week, the poet, translator, and editor of *Los Angeles Review of Books*, [Boris Dralyuk wrote this](#) about a translation he will publish soon:

"The poet Boris Khersonsky, who recently left Odesa with his wife and fellow poet Lyudmyla, finds a perfect image for historical contingency in the lines below."

This morning's rain overpowers the dim morning light
 a paper boat floats on the current it was at one point
 the head-of-state's portrait but folded just right
 it's a boat that knows not where it floats

a peculiar summer no sunlight no warmth
 been pouring all day and life wouldn't stay
 thoughts and cigarette filters also drift off
 a boat once a portrait is floating away.

This is the only kind of language that makes history sensible to me now.

I have no analytical frame of reference for linking the arbitrary and irrational events taking place now including the increasingly [arbitrary and harsh repression](#) of Russian speech.

Last week I saw a video of Russian forces blowing up the car

“...We thought there would be no war, but the war came. And, for the first time in years, the nuclear threat is no empty threat. Stop whining about how much you’re suffering from inaction. Ukraine is the one suffering. Act. All of these harsh words I address not only to others, but to myself as well.”

of an elderly couple driving down a road. Just now I received news that Russian troops murdered a highly regarded physicist outside of Kyiv when he was on his way to evacuate his family. Nothing that comes out of Vladimir Putin’s mouth has any substance. As ruthless as these acts are, the boat, once a portrait, seems to just float away.

In a different pitch, the urgency of everyday life in wartime seems to have jolted some poets out of their [usual mode of writing](#).⁴ Pure outrage motivates [Daria Serenko](#), a feminist poet and activist who appears in another of the acclaimed poetry publications of recent years, *F Letter: New Russian Feminist Poetry*.⁵ Serenko uses a kind of poetic diction to write a manifestly unpoetic, impassioned [exhortation to fellow Russians](#) in the first days after the invasion.

I have never spoken like this before but these words may be the only ones that it is generally possible to say in this reality, so let them be like this:

Stop being pathetic cowards, conformists, patient sufferers, loyal citizens, stop being apolitical.

The world has changed. Our apathy might be the cause of the destruction of a great number of people, including our children and loved ones.

Stop sitting in cafes. Stop planning vacations. Stop listening to propaganda. Don’t die like fools. Stop being scared of prison and arrests, I swear to God, those are not the worst options.

Join antiwar activists and movements. Protest this war. Even if you are Putin supporters, I doubt you are suicide supporters.

We thought there would be no war, but the war came. And, for the first time in years, the nuclear threat is no empty threat.

Stop whining about how much you’re suffering from inaction. Ukraine is the one suffering.

Act.

All of these harsh words I address not only to others, but to myself as well.

(Translated by Eugene Ostashevsky)

That words fail us (or some of us) in the midst of violence is nothing new. Historians will also recognize the Putin regime’s efforts to drain words of meaning -- by inverting them, by lying with them, by twisting them to justify the unjustifiable -- in order to delegitimize language altogether. [Fran Hirsch](#) pointed out on Facebook today that the [Russian Prosecutor’s Office](#) invoked the 1948 UN

definition of genocide to justify blocking Instagram. “Every day,” Fran wrote, “the Putin regime’s cynical use of the language of international law seems to reach new heights.”

We need the work of scholars to expose those lies and to amplify them as lies. But we also need poetic truth. And poets are fighting back. The incredible flourishing of poetry in Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus in recent years is almost exclusively driven by politics and the need to challenge monolithic patriarchal and imperial powers.

“In a twist of macabre irony,” the acclaimed poet-scholar Polina Barskova observes in her afterword to *Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine*, “this anthology testifies that if anything is possible after the war—it is poetry.... [which] uses the fact of shattered language as its tragic building material.”⁶

I’ve been reading *Words for War* obsessively and, I confess, somewhat randomly, since the day Russia invaded Ukraine. This volume collects poems written in Ukraine after Maidan and in response to the so-called “hybrid war” going on in the Donbas since 2014. Barskova argues that the Maidan revolution and the undefined new form of warfare -- a war that denies being a war -- brought about an entirely new poetics. The collection is rich in its diversity, but that is a rich meal for another day. For me, the fragmentary, splintered mosaic is the ideal form for this time. This is writing composed of Kurkov’s “pieces of blown-up tanks and cars,

CALL FOR SELF-NOMINATIONS FOR ASEEES BOARD CANDIDACY

Please email lypark@pitt.edu
with questions
or click through for more
information.

**Nomination Deadline:
April 15**

the remains of downed planes and helicopters. ... all covered in blood." And it's these poems made of shrapnel, sometimes with only a tenuous, somewhat broken, connection to recognizable reality that I want to read. In Oksana Lutsyshyna's "don't touch live flesh," my UT Austin colleague, the celebrated Ukrainian writer, gives us an immediate sensation of pain. At the same time she makes it clear that this pain is not for us to claim as our own.

don't touch live flesh
if you must, touch a wound no longer open
this one — let me embrace it
coil myself around it

leave it alone, let me carry it back home
alive in a boat of flesh
this resolute flower of summer
this most succulent of its berries⁷

(Translated by Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky)

What's meaningful about reading poetry now is not the sense it makes, or the world of grief and fear and anger and wreckage and people on the move that it represents, but the ability of some poems to convey a sensory-emotional reality that defies logic in the same way this war defies logic.

Eventually it will be time for me to return to narrative and explanation, to prose, but I don't want to abandon what I've absorbed from the poetic voices I've been listening to. Some poems are able to mediate between the analytical and the illogical and "Some People," by Wislawa Szymborska, is one of those.⁸ Historical in the devastating specificity of its details, it is at the same time transhistorical in showing that no matter how war is explained or justified, whether fought for ideological or delusional or territorial or imperial reasons, for ordinary people "some invisibility would come in handy."

Some People

Some people fleeing some other people.
In some country under the sun
and some clouds.

They leave behind some of their everything,
sown fields, some chickens, dogs,
mirrors in which fire now sees itself reflected.

On their backs are pitchers and bundles,
the emptier, the heavier from one day to the next.

Taking place stealthily is somebody's stopping,
and in the commotion, somebody's bread
somebody's snatching
and a dead child somebody's shaking.

In front of them some still not the right way,
nor the bridge that should be
over a river strangely rosy.
Around them, some gunfire, at times closer, at
times farther off,
and, above, a plane circling somewhat.

Some invisibility would come in handy,
some grayish stoniness,
or even better, non-being
for a little or a long while.

Something else is yet to happen, only where
and what?
Someone will head toward them, only when
and who,
in how many shapes and with what intentions?
Given a choice,
maybe he will choose not to be the enemy and
leave them with some kind of life.

(Translated by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh)



Joan Neuberger is the Earl E. Sheffield Regents Professor of History at The University of Texas at Austin and 2022 ASEES Board President. She studies modern Russian culture in social and political context, with a focus on the politics of the arts. She is the author of an eclectic range of publications, including *This Thing of Darkness: Eisenstein's Ivan the Terrible in Stalin's Russia* (Cornell: 2019), which was a finalist for 4 awards and won the American Historical Association's George L. Mosse Book Prize.

My thanks to Michael Kunichika, Valerie Kivelson, and Rachel Watson for their sensitive readings and comments.

Endnotes

1 Ilya Kaminsky, *Deaf Republic: Poems* (Minneapolis: Graywolf Press, 2019).

2 Ilya Kaminsky, "Poems In a Time of Crisis," *New York Times*, March 13, 2022.

3 Teffi, *Memories: From Moscow to the Black Sea*, transl. Robert Chandler and Elizabeth Chandler, Irina Steinberg and Anne Marie Jackson (New York: New York Review of Books, 2016).

4 "Siberia Burns," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, August 12, 2021,

Rachel Brasier, Serena Clapp-Clark, Paige MacKinnon, Helen Poe, and Elizabeth Tolley created a collective translation during online seminars held by Hilah Kohen at Middlebury College's Davis School of Russian. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/short-takes/siberia-burns-a-poem-from-russia/>

5 *F Letter: New Russian Feminist Poetry*, edited and translated by Galina Rymbu, Eugene Ostashevsky, and Ainsley Morse (Isolarii, 2020).

6 Polina Barskova, "Afterword," *Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine*, Eds. Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2017), 200.

7 *Words for War*, 132.

8 *Poems: New and Collected, 1957-1997*, translated by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanaugh (Ecco, 2000), 262.



ASEEES 54th Annual Convention

Oct. 13-14, 2022 • Virtual Convention
Nov. 10-13, 2022 • Chicago, IL

Click through for:

- Theme: Precarity
- Hotel information
- Important dates
- Registration
- Travel grants
- General FAQs

Forthcoming in *Slavic Review* Volume 81 Spring 2022

CLUSTER: THE SOVIET STEPPE-
TRANSFORMATIONS AND IMAGINARIES

Introduction

Christine Bichsel, Ekaterina Filep, and Julia Oberreis

Steppes to Health: How the Climate-Kumys
Cure Shaped a New Steppe Imaginary
Maya Peterson

Reinventing the Steppe: The
Agromeliorative Complex in the Russian
Periphery
Timm Schönfelder

The Alien Republic: Narratives of
Deterritorialization in Imaginations of
Turkmenistan from the Late 19th to the Late
20th Century
Clemens Gunther

ARTICLES

Nomadic Nobles: Pastoralism and Privilege
in the Russian Empire
*Gulmira Sultangalieva, Ulzhan Tuleshova,
and Paul W. Werth*

Postwar Rebuilding and Resettlements in
the Soviet Union: A Case of Azeri Migration
Krista Goff

"A Colony of Alien Capital": French
Investments, Polish Identity, and a Story of
Murder in 1930s Warsaw
Jerzy Łazor

Marriage, Gender and Demographic
Change: Managing Fertility in State-Socialist
Poland
Natalia Jarska and Agata Ignaciuk

Low Spirits and Immoderate Meditations in
Venedikt Erofeev's Moskva-Petushki
Julia Vaingurt



UZHGOROD, UKRAINE - FEBRUARY 27, 2022 - Refugees crowd at the Uzhhorod-Vysne Nemecke checkpoint on the Ukraine-Slovakia border, Zakarpattia Region, western Ukraine. — Photo by Ukrinform

ASEEES STATEMENTS ON RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, ASEEES Board issued a [statement condemning Russia's military assault on Ukraine](#):

The Board of Directors of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies condemns Russia's military assault on Ukraine and President Putin's use of historical distortions and cynical lies to justify Russia's attack on Ukrainian sovereignty. We stand with all the people of Ukraine and Russia who oppose this war.

On March 9, the ASEEES Board of Directors, along with the leadership of AATSEEL and BASEES, issued a [joint statement of opposition to banning scholars based on citizenship](#).

As international professional associations that foster the study of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian peoples and cultures, ASEEES, BASEES, and AATSEEL are committed to promoting international communication among scholars of all countries and identities across the humanities and social sciences. Open exchange and mutual respect among our members are fundamental to our principles.

We have all expressed our unequivocal condemnation of Russia's war on Ukraine. We oppose Putin's assault on Ukrainian sovereignty. We are horrified by the Russian military's unconscionable assaults on civilians and the escalating refugee crisis unfolding before our eyes. Since we have choices about our actions that people living in fear under attack do not have, we join those who call for cutting our formal ties with institutions and with academics who are actively supporting the Russian war effort.

We want to do everything we can to show our support for Ukrainian scholars and students. At the same time, we are concerned about calls for blanket bans on the

participation of individual Russians and Belarusians in scholarly events and scholarly exchange.

We strongly oppose the vilification and exclusion of our Russian and Belarusian students and colleagues. Banning Russians and Belarusians based solely on their citizenship goes against our fundamental principles of scholarship, open communication, and dialogue. Such sanctions have the potential to harm those living in authoritarian regimes who are opposed to the war. We encourage all members of our community who stand against the war in Ukraine to come together and support our students and colleagues.

On March 17, the ASEEES Executive Committee, along with the leadership of AATSEEL and BASEES, issued a [joint statement condemning Russian university presidents' statement of support for Russian assault on Ukraine](#).

As leaders of professional organizations devoted to the scholarly understanding of Russia, East Europe, and Eurasia, we unequivocally condemn the 287 Russian university presidents who released a public statement on March 4, 2022, supporting the Russian military assault on Ukraine. By repeating the same historical distortions that Putin uses to justify the invasion, these representatives of Russian higher education have betrayed their responsibility to their educational purpose and to ethical leadership and brought shame upon their institutions.

Statements by other organizations and institutions have been collected [here](#).

Also see [ASEEES's initiatives](#) to support displaced scholars and students from Ukraine.

Full Historiographical Legitimacy to Ukraine

Andrii Portnov, European University Viadrina

Tetiana Portnova, Dnipro National Historical Museum

Editor's Note. This article is part of the [Slavic Review Discussion: War Against Ukraine](#).

In 1995 the late Mark von Hagen opened his thought-provoking essay "[Does Ukraine Have a History?](#)" with an observation that Ukrainian studies lack full historiographical legitimacy in major Anglo-American, German, and Japanese academic centers, and reminded of an obviously strong stereotypical association of "Eastern Europe" with nationalism, antisemitism, and ethnic irredentism.¹ In 2017 in his popular German-language overview of the history of Ukrainians and Russians Andreas Kappeler repeated his observation from the *Slavic Review* forum on von Hagen's text that from the western perspective "Ukraine still stands in the shadow of Russia."² We could add, to a great, but still not properly recognized and discussed deformation and damage to Russian, Soviet, and Jewish studies.

We believe that the current moment is a proper one to re-read the Forum about Ukraine after the Maidan of 2013-14 arranged by one of the

leading international journals in our field.³ The editorial introduction to that forum claimed "the centrality of history for the Ukrainian crisis," and the entire discussion was centred around the question of Ukrainian far-right nationalism.⁴ One of the authors even asserted that it was the "Orange Revolution" of 2004 that "undermined Ukraine's pluralistic politics" and "radicalized Putin."⁵ The leading authors of the *Kritika* forum used essentialist logic and reproduced clichés of "two Ukraines" envisioned as internally homogeneous entities divided by language (Russian versus Ukrainian) and history (European, that is, Polish-Austrian, versus Russo-Soviet); reproduced the language of essentialist nationalism even if applied by the authors who proclaim themselves to be anti-nationalistic; and focus on "nation" and "identity" while neglecting such aspects as economic infrastructure, social problems, or the nature of violence. The convincing critic of methodological predispositions and factual inaccuracy of that forum by Andriy Zayarnyuk had not so far received a proper attention within the community.⁶

We very much hope that this time a paradigm shift is inevitable, as well as a serious conversation about the responsibility of our discipline for the terrible events that we have all witnessed and participated in. We hope that Ukrainian researchers will finally face less “presumption of nationalism,” when the word “Ukrainian” almost automatically evokes far-right connotations and almost every text has to begin with proof of its author’s “adequacy.” We are not calling to forget about Ukrainian nationalism and its crimes, but want to focus on the intellectual counterproductivity of the reduction of Ukrainian to the nationalist aspect of its intellectual and political history.

We also want to emphasize that the study of Ukraine, like any other culture, requires special training, knowledge of language, understanding of contexts. To ensure this, the institutionalization of Ukrainian studies, first and foremost at the university level, is necessary. We hope that the time has come for a deep rethinking of the discipline, rather than an overnight actualization, which could open up many research perspectives and new approaches to the entire region. And we completely agree with Marina Mogilner that time has come for professional self-reflection and for real decolonization of our field.

The European Union recognized Ukraine’s European aspirations only in the course of a cruel and devastating war, not in 2004, after the peaceful Orange Revolution, not in 2014, after the Maidan and the Russian occupation of Crimea. Let us not be too late this time. Ukraine deserves full historiographical legitimacy right now! And it should be institutionally secured for generations to come.

To obtain a deeper understanding of the ongoing situation in Ukraine, Slavic Review has assembled a special collection of [articles](#), [discussions](#), [book reviews](#), and more on the [subject](#). These articles are free to access through May 31, 2022.

Endnotes

- 1 Mark von Hagen. “Does Ukraine Have a History?,” *Slavic Review* Vol. 54, No. 3 (Autumn 1995): 658-73.
- 2 Andreas Kappeler. *Ungleiche Brüder: Russen und Ukrainer vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart* (Munich, 2017): 231-32.
- 3 “The Ukrainian Crisis and History,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 16, no. 1 (Winter 2015).
- 4 *Ibid.*, 1.
- 5 Faith Hillis, “Intimacy and Antipathy: Ukrainian-Russian Relations in Historical Perspective,” *Kritika* 16, no. 1, 121-28, here 125-26.
- 6 Andriy Zayarnyuk, “A Revolution’s History, A Historians’ War,” *Ab Imperio*, no. 1 (2015): 449-79, especially 464-65.



Andrii Portnov is the Chair of Entangled History of Ukraine at European University Viadrina, Germany.



Tetiana Portnova is affiliated with Dnipro National Historical Museum, Ukraine.



ASEEES GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of ASEEES members, Zofia Włodarczyk received \$6,000 to conduct dissertation research.

Włodarczyk's dissertation uses multidisciplinary literature and interviews of Chechen women living in Poland to compare experiences of women fleeing domestic violence and those escaping political persecution.

Click through to learn more about this dissertation research grant & support for:

- Summer dissertation writing
- Women and Gender studies
- LGBTQ studies
- Joseph Bradley and Christine Ruane Dissertation Research Grant in Russian Studies
- Maya K. Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies
- Understanding Modern Russia

APPLY by April 1

DONATE



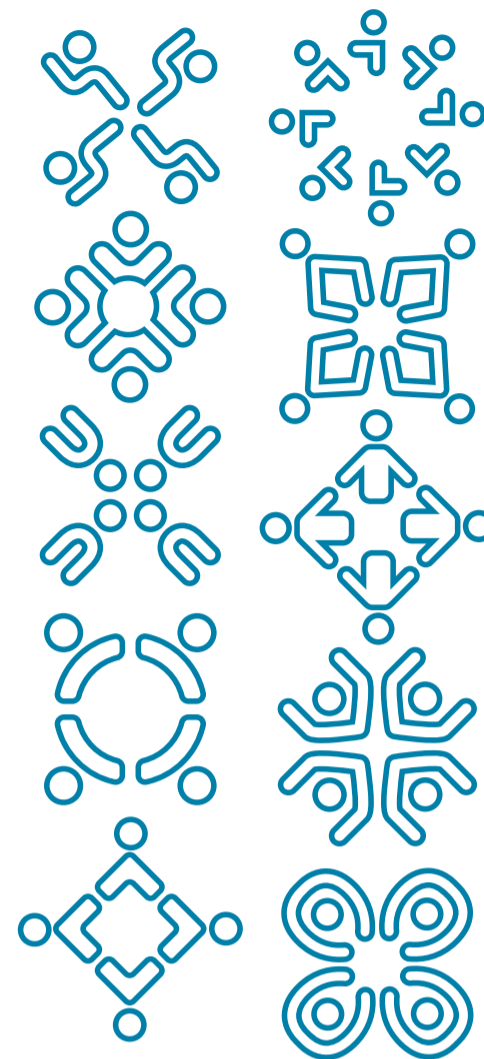
ZOFIA WŁODARCZYK
ASEEES DISSERTATION RESEARCH
GRANT RECIPIENT

ASEEES INITIATIVE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ASEEES is delighted to continue the Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion for its second year. We invite our BIPOC (black, Indigenous, and people of color) colleagues and current first-generation undergraduates of any race, gender, or ethnicity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies to participate.

The goal of the Initiative is to continue to provide structural support for our community of BIPOC and underrepresented students, scholars, and professionals in the United States so that they can network, share their experiences, and participate in a mentoring program.

We are pleased to offer a complimentary two-year membership to those who are eligible and are working on topics in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia or those who have an MA or PhD in the field but are working in unrelated areas or disciplines. For more information, please see [HERE](#).



APPLICATIONS DUE
APRIL 8

2022 ASEEES INTERNSHIP GRANT

ASEEES is accepting a second round of applications for the ASEEES Internship Grant program, now with an expanded scope of Ukrainian and Russian Studies

Exploring Career Diversity: A Successful Mentorship Experience

Sabina Amanbayeva (Oklahoma City University) and
Nina Murray (U.S. Department of State)

What does a successful mentorship experience look like? Sabina Amanbayeva and Nina Murray were matched by ASEEES's [Exploring Career Diversity program](#) in spring 2021. In the spirit of their ongoing collaboration, they chose to report on their experience in an interview.

Nina Murray: Sabina, what made you sign up for the Exploring Career Diversity program? What were you looking for or hoping for from the match?

Sabina Amanbayeva: I was curious about other kinds of careers outside of academia. I spent all my adult life in universities—first as an undergraduate student, then graduate student, and professor—and so I was wondering what other careers were available to me. What else is out there? I was also interested on behalf of my students in my “Beginning Russian I and II” classes. What opportunities do they have with Russian? Because I speak Russian and Bulgarian, I felt like I could contribute to other fields, based on my linguistic and academic backgrounds. I was looking for someone working in the fields of cultural exchange, foreign service, or perhaps research / non-profit work related to Eurasia, but I really did not have a clear idea of what I wanted. Nina, I am so glad I met you! Nina is the best possible contact one could wish for. From our very first meeting, I could tell she is very interested in the mentorship process and genuinely wants to help others, connect them to opportunities, and share her knowledge. Nina told me about her work in foreign service at the Department of State and explained the application process (the Foreign Service Officer Test or the FSOT). Because she is also a poet and a translator from Ukrainian and Russian, we also connected based on our interest in languages and literatures.

Sabina: Nina, why did you sign up for the Exploring Career Diversity program? What do you like about your job as a Foreign Service

Officer and why do you think it would be a good career option for PhD academics in Slavic Studies or related fields?

Nina: As a graduate student and a speaker of Russian and Ukrainian, I had no idea that government service was an option for me. I found out about the Foreign Service Exam by accident, from a mailing my husband received as a Fulbright alumnus. Once in the service, I realized two things: I found my perfect job, and no one “at home” knows what we do. (I am overstating things, of course!). So, I joined the program to be a resource to emerging professionals, to spread the word, basically. I think we need more public servants, from all kinds of agencies, doing this: the U.S. government invests significant funds and effort in supporting the study of foreign languages, but then actually attracting people with regional and linguistic expertise to government jobs is a constant challenge.

Sabina: Nina also helped me find a musician for my STARTALK Russian immersion camp at Oklahoma City University. I was applying for the STARTALK grant (which we got!) that allows a university or school to host a Russian immersion camp for high school students, and I wanted to propose the theme of “arts” and “connecting cultures through the arts” as the theme of our camp. I asked Nina for people who might be good to involve in the camp, and she suggested Kyle Dillingham.

Nina: I think we started talking about your STARTALK proposal soon after we connected. When you told me about the concept of teaching Russian through the arts, I immediately thought of my contacts in Oklahoma City who have participated in cultural exchanges. Kyle Dillingham being legendary, we made that connection.

Sabina: How did you first meet Kyle Dillingham? It sounds like you meet a lot of interesting

people through your job as a Foreign Service Officer! Do you often end up working with them on future projects or have an opportunity to collaborate beyond your immediate meeting?

Nina: Kyle Dillingham and The Horseshoe Band traveled to Kosovo and Kuwait in the 2018/19 season of American Music Abroad, a State Department-sponsored cultural exchange program. I was honored to work in the office that managed the program, so I met Kyle in Washington, D.C. He is a passionate advocate for the arts and civic engagement. During the COVID-19 shutdown, Kyle volunteered as an adviser to our office as we worked around the clock to reinvent our programs to be delivered virtually. One of the enduring pleasures—and privileges—of the Foreign Service is meeting and working with extraordinary people who often become friends.

Sabina: You know a lot of interesting people, Nina! Thanks to you, I was also able to participate in a workshop for the writer's residency that you were helping to organize in Almaty, Kazakhstan. I am from Kazakhstan, and so when I heard that Nina is involved in a writing workshop there, I was really excited. I left Kazakhstan twenty years ago, and I really wanted to reconnect with artists and writers there. Nina, do you want to tell us more about the writer's residency?

Nina: While on a sabbatical from my job, in June 2021, I was invited to teach at a [writers' residency in Almaty](#). The residency, scheduled for September, received more than 70 applications for six available fellowships. To encourage the many writers who were not going to be selected, I offered to do a virtual workshop in July. When I told you about this idea, you immediately agreed to participate. Together, along with Elena Sheveleva, a Kazakhstan-born scholar now living in the UK, we ran a virtual workshop on research and publishing opportunities in the UK and the US. The videos remain

2022 Exploring Career Diversity Conversation Series

ASEEES is pleased to announce the 2022 Exploring Career Diversity Conversation Series for graduate students or recent graduates who are interested in broadening their career horizons. Please join us this year for informal conversations in Zoom breakout rooms with SEEES professionals in career fields outside of academia or within academia outside the professoriate.

- Exploring Careers in Journalism and Professional Writing (Tuesday, 26 April: 4-5:30 PM Eastern)
- Exploring Careers in Think Tanks and Consulting (Monday, 2 May: 10-11:30 AM Eastern)
- Exploring Careers in Libraries and Library Sciences (Wednesday, 11 May: 1:00-2:30 PM Eastern)
- Exploring Careers in Business, Entrepreneurship, and Finance (Wednesday, 18 May: 1:30-3 PM Eastern)

This initiative is supported by the Committee for Careers beyond Academia.

My conversations with senior contacts as part of the Exploring Career Diversity Series changed the way I approached my remaining time in graduate school.

Thanks to their feedback and advice, I have enrolled in a certificate program that is directly related to my interest in learning experience design, and I am gaining hands-on experience in that field. I am deeply appreciative to the senior contacts for their openness and attentiveness – while our paths will be different, their ability to relate to my experience made me feel understood, supported, and prepared for different career possibilities.

Aleksandra Marciniak
PhD Candidate, University of Michigan

For more information on eligibility and registration, click here

available online [here](#), and I still get emails from people who participated.

Sabina: How did this collaboration in the form of the writer’s residency in Almaty, Kazakhstan, come about? Many Slavists in the U.S. want to build connections with writers and Slavic scholars in Russian-speaking countries. Based on your involvement in this project, what are some of the obstacles in this kind of collaboration? What can the U.S. Slavists offer and what can they learn?

Nina: The residency itself, the first one of its kind, was the brainchild of Yuriy Serebriansky, who spent three months [on a writers’ exchange program at the University of Iowa](#). Yuriy wanted to recreate his experience with the International Writing Program at home in Almaty, where he teaches at the Almaty Open Literary School. With funding from Chevron and the U.S. Consulate in Almaty, this dream became a reality—which then had to be postponed for a year because of the pandemic restrictions.

I think it is essential to be able to sit around the seminar table, have rigorous discussions, write, read, and then go to dinner together. Collaborations happen when the right people find themselves in the same room with time and space to talk and think. Of course, it is very hard to get funding for a project whose objectives begin with the words “connect,” “explore,” or “discuss”—but the investment is worth the apparent risk and uncertainty. Because of the residency, there is now a new English-language blog about literature from Kazakhstan, a Kazakh-language version of the Almaty-based literary journal *Daktyl*, and a freshly founded Kazakh-language literary publisher.

The public (as public as we could make them) events of the residency were hosted by American Space Almaty. Sabina also sent a large shipment of books she collected in a blitz-book-drive. These have been distributed to the American Space and the library of the OLSHA literary school. The network of American Spaces extends across the region and includes affiliated libraries outside of the capital

cities. Supported by the Department of State, the Spaces promote study of English, community engagement, continuing education, and projects created by alumni of State-Department-sponsored exchanges (e.g. Fulbright).

Nina: How did you feel taking the FSOT?

Sabina: I felt like a student again! I started to prepare months in advance, read articles and listened to Youtube videos about the history of the American government, the different court cases and their outcomes, and other topics likely to be tested on the Foreign Service Test. When the day of the test came, it was easier than I expected. I was also excited to branch out into a different field. I felt like there was a whole different world out there - the world of a Foreign Service officer - and while I prepared for the test, I felt like one. I was so immersed in American politics and history. Thank you, Nina, for telling me about the FSOT and for inspiring me to pursue projects outside of academia.



Sabina Amanbayeva is Assistant Professor English and Comparative Literature at Oklahoma City University.



Nina Murray is a Ukrainian-born American poet, translator, and diplomat. As a member of the Foreign Service, she has served in Lithuania, Canada, Russia, and

Washington, D.C. Currently on a sabbatical, she is at work on Oksana Lutsyshyna’s *Ivan and Phoebe* (Deep Vellum, forthcoming) and her next collection of poetry.

“I think it is essential to be able to sit around the seminar table, have rigorous discussions, write, read, and then go to dinner together. Collaborations happen when the right people find themselves in the same room with time and space to talk and think.”

PONARS NEW APPROACHES
EURASIA TO RESEARCH AND
SECURITY IN EURASIA

Online Academy



Spotlight on PONARS: New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia

Marlene Laruelle, George Washington University

Students increasingly receive at least some of their education online, yet educational resources on the politics of Eurasia remain scarce. In response, PONARS Eurasia launched the new [Online Academy](#) in March 2020. Offering a repository of virtual resources in Russian and Eurasian studies, the Online Academy can help attract new students to the field, support online learners, and assist educators innovating in their classrooms.

Online student enrollment -- defined as those who take some or all of their classes online -- had been on the rise even before the COVID-19 pandemic. [Data from the National Center for Education Statistics](#) indicate that more than one-third (36%) of students took at least some form of online course in 2019. Predictably, that rate doubled by Fall 2020 to reach 72%, with most of the growth coming from undergraduates enrolled at public four-year universities. Even in classic, face-to-face education, video is more and more becoming a popular eLearning format. As early as 2014, Edudemic reported that [67% of teachers](#) believed video lessons were very

effective, while 46% percent of teachers said they have created at least one video lesson.

The "media richness" offered by videos translates to better instructional outcomes and helps students better operationalize accumulated knowledge. For students born into a digital world, learning through videos is second nature.

Yet despite online videos' prevalence and association with positive learning outcomes, Russian studies has remained largely analog. A cursory online search finds a lack of both high-quality videos and online classes on Russia, meaning that the growing population of online students will not be exposed to Russian studies. To adapt, Russian studies must begin offering state-of-the-art methods. Without a rich pool of visual and online content, the field risks being labeled "old-fashioned" and losing student engagement.

The [PONARS Eurasia Online Academy](#) is designed to address this problem. It supports the growing shift toward virtual learning and the integration of online content into classrooms, as well fills a dire need for scholarship-based educational programs on Eurasia by making relevant content available to a broader audience.

The Online Academy offers three products: educational videos produced by the PONARS Eurasia team; a podcast series led by our Russian partner, Maria Lipman; and a Resource Hub that collects existing documentary films and videos on Russia/Eurasia available in English that might be useful to educators, students, and anyone else interested in learning about the region.

The Online Academy taps into the knowledge network developed by PONARS Eurasia over the past quarter century, offering its more than 140 members the opportunity to co-author online videos and/or outline their content by selecting readings, infographics, interviews, and other video-amenable materials.

PONARS Eurasia’s educational videos provide brief, accessible explanations of contemporary and historical developments involving Russia and the surrounding region. The academy’s library is curated to cover topics of enduring importance to professors, students, and broader audiences, such as Putinism as a political system, the Russian economy, grassroots nationalism, Arctic sustainability, Russia’s policy in Central Asia, and the role of the Russian Orthodox Church. Forthcoming videos touch on the culture of protests, the rise of Navalny, Russia’s policy in the Black Sea, the Russian internet, labor migration, and more.

Videos average around 8 to 12 minutes in length, and can be watched independently or incorporated into face-to-face classes. Each is accompanied by a bibliography, offering viewers the chance to dive deeper into the topic.

PONARS Eurasia Podcasts discuss a wide range of Russian domestic affairs, from politics and civic activism to media, healthcare, and parenting. Host Maria Lipman brings decades of experience as a journalist, political analyst, and commentator in Russia to conversations with Russian scholars and others with expertise in the region. These informative conversations offer a rich and nuanced picture of Russia that is hard to find elsewhere. The podcast has an archive of more than 30 episodes broadcast since the start of the pandemic, and currently averages nearly 400 listeners per episode.

The video library can be accessed [here](#), and the podcast episodes [here](#). For more information or for any questions please contact adminponars@gwu.edu

Congratulations to the Spring 2022
ASEEES First Book Subvention
Winners

Northern Illinois University Press (an imprint of Cornell University Press) for *Taking the Soviet Union Apart Room by Room: Domestic Architecture Before and After 1991*, by Kateryna Malaia

University of Wisconsin for *The Russian Shanson as Tamed Rebel: From Anathema to Anthem* Press, by Anastasiia Gordienko

Oxford University Press for *Reds in Blue: UNESCO, World Governance, and the Soviet Internationalist Imagination during the Cold War*, by Louis Porter

Applications for the next round are due
Sept 1
aseees.org/programs/firstbook-subvention



Marlene Laruelle (George Washington University) is the Director, Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies; Director, Illiberalism Studies Program; Director, Central Asia Program; Co-Director, PONARS-Eurasia; Research Professor of International Affairs.

Personages

William Craft Brumfield hosted a series at the 92nd Street Y, "[In the Footsteps of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy](#)." This three-part class combined Brumfield's photos of places like Yasnaya Polyana, the legendary country estate where Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace*, with Brumfield's knowledge of Russia and its literature.

Kate Graber received tenure and is now Associate Professor of [Anthropology and Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University Bloomington](#).

Valentina Izmirlieva is now Director of the Harriman Institute. A longstanding member of the Harriman community, she has been a faculty member at the Slavic Department since 1999. Her teaching ranges from Russian literature and culture, medieval literature of the Eastern Slavs and the history of religion in Russia from Prince Vladimir to Vladimir Putin, to critical theory, gender studies, Slavic modernism, and Balkan cultural politics.

William Pomeranz was named the new Director of the Kennan Institute.

Stephen Badalyan Riegg's book, *Russia's Entangled Embrace*, won the [Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies](#) from the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.

Matthew Rojansky is now President of the US Russia Foundation.

José Vergara has started a new position as Assistant Professor of Russian at Bryn Mawr College.

American University doctoral candidate **Alexandra Zaremba** launched a digital collecting initiative and oral history project, [Our Yugoslavias: Daily Life in the SFRY](#). The project's purpose is to understand Yugoslavia through the voices of everyday people by collecting, preserving, and sharing their stories. It also provides space so that people who lived in Yugoslavia can engage with one another and reflect on their pasts. Our Yugoslavias will result in a digital collection and exhibition.

Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia 2022

July 6 - July 29
online

This year, the Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia (MSSR) will be redesigned to address the questions raised by war in Ukraine: What did previous analysis overlook? How do we place the conflict in historical context? What constitutes power? And how do we rebuild from this nadir? We invite graduate students and rising specialists in Russian studies (broadly understood) to join us in tackling these topics.

Within wide-ranging modules on Russian history, foreign policy, and values in political decision making, the symposium will include interactive lectures, roundtables, workshops, and debates delivered by leading experts from the USA, Russia, Europe, and China. We will also host speakers from Ukraine and Eastern Europe, expanding our range of perspectives on Russia and on the immediate and enduring challenges facing the region and the world.

apply: [GO.MIIS.EDU/MSSR](https://go.miis.edu/mssr)

Affiliate Group News

AATSEEL Book Prize Shortlist

The AATSEEL book prize committee announces titles [shortlisted for the 2021 AATSEEL book awards](#).

26th Annual ASN World Convention

The [ASN World Convention](#), sponsored by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, will be held May 4-7, 2022. It will have a significant online component and may also be held partly in-person. All presenters will need to register and purchase/renew their ASN membership in order to take part in the Convention.

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

AWSS Hybrid Conference

This year's theme is: Gender, Power, Violence in the Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Regions.

The conference, hosted by the ASU Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies, will be conducted as a hybrid event from March 31-April 2, 2022. For questions, email mbokovoy@unm.edu.

Midwest Slavic Conference

The Midwest Slavic Association and the OSU Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies will host the [2022 Midwest Slavic Conference](#) in Columbus, OH on April 1-3, 2022. The conference will open on Friday with a keynote address by Dr. Ian Helfant (Colgate U), followed by a plenary on Saturday morning. Panels by conference participants will then commence on Saturday and Sunday.

North American Dostoevsky Society

The [North American Dostoevsky Society](#) (NADS) invites IDS/NADS members to nominate student essays on Dostoevsky-related topics for its annual essay competitions. The submission deadline is June 1, 2022. Students are welcome to nominate their own work, in which case membership is not required. The topic is open; however, Dostoevsky and his works should be the main focus of the essay. The essay parameters can be found [here](#). Email undergraduate essays to [Vladimir Ivantsov](mailto:Vladimir.Ivantsov@rutgers.edu) and grad student essays to chloe.kitzinger@rutgers.edu.

2022 NESEEEES Conference

The [North East Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies](#) (NESEEEES) will host the 43rd Annual NESEEEES conference virtually on Saturday, April 30th, 2022.

NESEEEES awards an annual prize for the best graduate student paper presented at the conference.

Questions can be sent to: neseees@gmail.com.

PIASA 8th World Congress

The [Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America](#) 8th World Congress, hosted by the University of Białystok, Poland will be held in hybrid form on June 10-12, 2022.

The general theme of the conference is "Borderlands (Pogranicza)," for which Białystok, a city on Poland's present-day eastern frontier adjacent to Poland's historic borderlands (kresy), with its own distinctive multicultural past, is a most appropriate setting.

REECAS Northwest

The [28th Annual Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Northwest Conference](#) will be held April 7 – 9, 2022.

The conference hosts many panels on a variety of topics from a wide diversity of disciplines including political science, history, literature, linguistics, anthropology, culture, migration studies, gender studies, LGBTQ studies, film studies, and more.

2022 REECAS Northwest Conference Eliot Borenstein (NYU) will deliver the keynote address: "Everybody Hates Russia" – On the Uses of Conspiracy Theory Under Putin.

Western Association of Slavic Studies

The Western Association of Slavic Studies Annual Meeting will be held as part of the [WSSA's 64th Annual Conference](#) in Denver, Colorado, from March 30 - April 2, 2022. Please direct questions to [Dr. Robert Niebuhr, WASS 2022, Chair](#).

Institutional Member News

Harriman Institute

The New Review and the Harriman Institute, Columbia University will host an international conference, "Russian Emigration on the Waves of Freedom" from May 2-3, 2022.

In celebration of the centennial jubilee of the Philosophers' Ship and the 80th anniversary of *The New Review* / *Novyi Zhurnal*, the conference will explore the unknown pages of the intellectual history of Russian émigré culture in the 20th century and will seek to integrate the social, cultural, and intellectual contributions of the multiethnic Russian-language diaspora into world culture. The conference proceedings will be published in a special brochure (in English and Russian); some papers will be published in *The New Review* (in Russian only).

Hoover Institution

The Hoover Institution Library and Archives has been collecting printed and archival materials from the conflict region, colloquially known as the 'Donbass', encompassing parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine so that researchers will be better able to understand the sources and development of the conflict.

Rose Gottemoeller, Andriy Kohut, and Steven Pifer [met to discuss](#) the situation in the region and its significance for international politics. The panelists discussed the prospects for escalation or pacification, and what the current tensions bode for the present and future of relations between the US, NATO, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center

For information about how COVID-19 is impacting fellowships and grants, [click here](#).

Galina Starovoitova Fellows on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

The Starovoitova Fellowship is available to scholars, policy makers, journalists, civic activists, and other engaged persons who successfully bridge the worlds of ideas and public affairs to advance human rights and conflict resolution.

Applicants with substantial experience from a wide variety of backgrounds (including academia, government, the corporate world, the professions, NGOs, the media) are eligible for appointment. All applicants are required to have a working knowledge of English. For academic participants, eligibility is limited to the postdoctoral level, and normally it is expected that academic candidates will have demonstrated their scholarly development by publication beyond the Kandidat dissertation. For other applicants, an equivalent level of professional achievement is expected.

This fellowship offers a monthly stipend, research facilities, word processing support, and research assistance. One 6-month and one 3-month grant are available. Grant recipients are required to be in residence at the Kennan Institute for the duration of their grant. The Starovoitova Fellows are expected to hold public lectures on the themes of conflict resolution and human rights while conducting research on a specific topic. In addition, the Starovoitova Fellow will actively participate in discussions with the public policy and academic communities, including giving speeches and lectures at other institutions and taking part in meetings and conferences. The application deadline is May 15, 2022.

James H. Billington Fellowship

The Billington Fellow will be based at the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute for a nine-month term. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials at the State Department, USAID, Department of Defense, and Congress. The Billington Fellow will be expected to participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, as well as attending meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and the Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowship, the Billington Fellow will join our growing list of alumni, for whom the Kennan Institute will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

Applicants must hold a Ph.D. awarded within the past 10 years. Preference will be given to proposed research in the fields of Russian history and culture. There is no citizenship restriction on this grant.

The Billington Fellowship offers a monthly stipend, research facilities, a research intern, and computer access. Fellows are required to be in residence at the Kennan Institute for the duration of the grant. Awardees are expected to begin their appointments within six months of accepting the fellowship. The deadline for this competition is May 15, 2022.

The Kennan Institute welcomes:

George F. Kennan Fellows

- Heather DeHaan, Binghamton U and Shalala Mammadova, Azerbaijan State Pedagogical U, "Remembering Soviet Azerbaijan after Stalin (1953-1991)"
- Andrew Monaghan, Oxford Changing Character of War Centre, Pembroke College, Oxford, "The Importance of History to Contemporary Russian Ways of War"

- Nataliya Shok, Privolzhsky Research Medical U, "From 'Vaccine Race' to 'Vaccine Diplomacy': Russia's global health policy during the COVID-19 pandemic from bioethical perspective"

Title VIII Research Scholars

- Michael Coates, Independent Scholar, "The Sources of Soviet Knowledge: A History of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia"
- Lee Singh, PhD. "Ballet for Socialism's Sake (and Beyond)"

Title VIII Short Term Scholars

- Thomas Burnham, PhD Student, U of Oxford, "Rival Communist Developmentalisms: Competing Chinese and Soviet Aid to Africa During the Cold War"
- Kathryn Hendley, U of Wisconsin, Madison, "The Potential for Young Lawyers to Re-imagine the Role of the Legal Profession Under Authoritarianism: The Russian Case"
- Joy Neumeyer, European University Institute. "No Way to Live: Visions of the End in the Late Soviet Union"

James Billington Fellow

- Katherine Zubovich, U at Buffalo, SUNY, "Picturing the Plan: Soviet Artists, Global Icons, and the Mobilization of Visual Statistics"

Galina Starovoitova Fellows

- Alena Popova, Analytical Center, Ethics and Technology, "Protecting Privacy and Autonomy of Voters in the Digital Era"
- Zarina Sautieva, Stichting Justice Initiative. "The Ingush Case: Society and Authority"

Pushkin House Book Prize

The Pushkin House Book Prize recognizes the very best non-fiction writing on Russia. It celebrates books which combine excellence in research with readability.

2022 marks the tenth anniversary of the annual [Pushkin House Book Prize](#) for the best current non-fiction writing on Russia published in the English language. This year's edition reviews books published between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2022. The judges who will be selecting the best works this year:

- Evgenia Arbugaeva, a photographer whose work often explores her homeland of the Russian Arctic.
- Baroness Deborah Bull, Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords and Vice President (Communities & National Engagement) at King's College London
- Archie Brown, Emeritus Professor of Politics at Oxford University and the author *The Human Factor: Gorbachev, Reagan and Thatcher and the End of the Cold War*, which won the 2021 Pushkin House Book Prize
- Dmitry Glukhovsky, multilingual author and journalist including for *Novaya Gazeta* and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*
- Ekaterina Schulmann, Associate Professor at the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences and an associate fellow at Chatham House

The Prize was created to highlight, reward and encourage public understanding and intelligent writing about the Russian-speaking world. It assesses books published in English, but translations from other languages, including Russian, are encouraged.

The Pushkin Prize is supported by Douglas Smith (author and winner of the inaugural award in 2013) and Stephanie

Ellis-Smith, and the Polonsky Foundation. For general book prize inquiries, contact the [Book Prize team](#).

UIUC&SlavicGraduate Students Association

On April 15-16, the Slavic Graduate Students Association (SGSA), Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Department of History and REEEC at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign will host scholars across disciplines for this year's conference, titled "Shifting Grounds: Changing Models of Nature in the Former Soviet Sphere."

This interdisciplinary conference is intended to explore the movement of disparate models of nature as they circulate through and coalesce into larger ideas about Post-Soviet and Eurasian existence. The conference keynote speaker is Dr. Pey-Yi Chu, Associate Professor of History, from Pomona College. Chu specializes in environmental history of Russian and the Soviet Union. In her latest book *The Life of Permafrost: A History of Frozen Earth in Russian and Soviet Science*, she maps out the history of scientific inquiries of permafrost and how it contributed to modern environmental discourse.

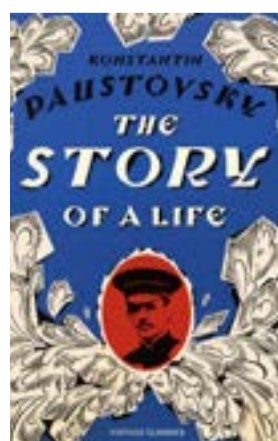
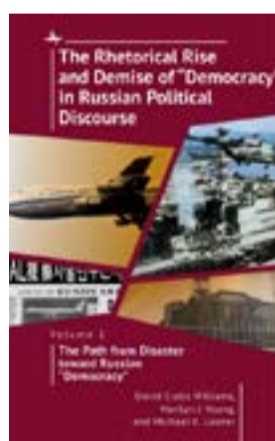
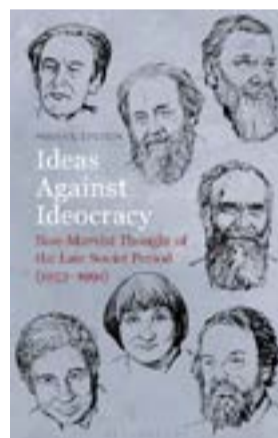
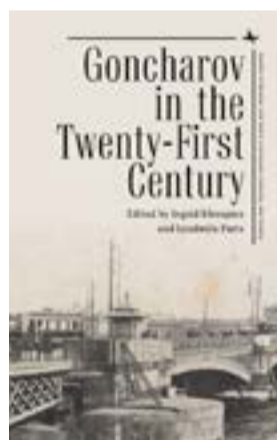
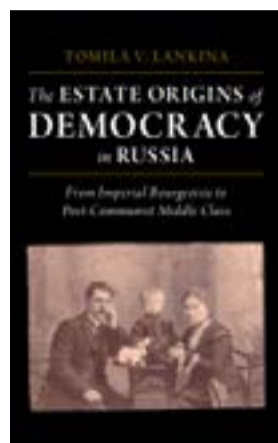
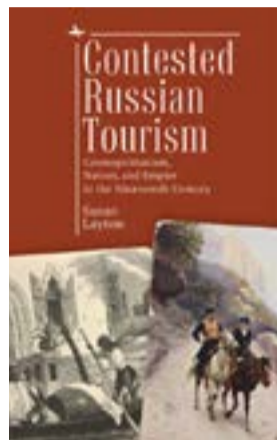
Zimmerli Art Museum

With heightened interest in Ukraine, the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University-New Brunswick has extended [Painting in Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985–1993](#) through April 10, 2022. The exhibition creates a visual context of Ukraine's history of self-determination and resilience, exploring the inventive new art styles by Ukrainian artists responding to a trying transitional period of perestroika (restructuring) during the collapse of the Soviet Union. The exhibition highlights an efflorescence of styles, rediscovered histories, and newly found freedoms that blossomed against economic scarcity and ecological calamity as the country reasserted its identity in the 1980s and 1990s.



Georgii Senchenko, "Sacred Landscape of Pieter Bruegel," 1988, oil on canvas. Gift of Robert L. and Ann R. Fromer.

Publications



Contested Russian Tourism: Cosmopolitanism, Nation, and Empire in the Nineteenth Century, by Susan Layton, was published by Academic Studies Press in August 2021. Drawing on literary classics, travel writing, journalism, and guidebooks, this book engages with current debates in cosmopolitan studies.

Tomila V. Lankina's *The Estate Origins of Democracy in Russia: From Imperial Bourgeoisie to Post-Communist Middle Class* (Cambridge University Press 2022) explores how the Imperial institution of estate created lasting social inequalities that continue to shape social structure and political divisions now.

Magdalena Baran-Szoltys's *Galizien als Archiv. Reisen im postgalizischen Raum in der Gegenwartsliteratur* (Vienna University Press in 2021) analyzes contemporary representations of Galicia in Polish and German-language literary texts and journalistic travel accounts.

Goncharov in the Twenty-First Century brings together scholars for a reexamination of Ivan Goncharov's life and work. Chapters engage with approaches from post-colonial and queer studies, theories of genre and the novel, desire, laughter, technology, and mobility and travel. This book, edited by Ingrid Kleespies and Lyudmila Parts, was published by Academic Studies Press in November 2021.

Mikhail Epstein's *Ideas Against Ideocracy Non-Marxist Thought of the Late Soviet Period (1953-1991)* (Bloomsbury Academic, October 2021) explores areas such as late-Soviet Russian nationalism and Eurasianism, religious thought, cosmism and esoterism, and postmodernism and conceptualism.

Galina Yemelianova's book *Islamic Leadership and the State in Eurasia*, (Anthem Press, November 2021) examines the relationship between official Islamic leadership (muftiship), non-official Islamic authorities, grassroots Muslim communities, and the state in post-Communist Eurasia.

Edited by Ostap Kushnir and Oleksandr Pankieiev, *Meandering*

in Transition Thirty Years of Reforms and Identity in Post-Communist Europe (Rowman Littlefield, August 2021) describes the formation of geopolitical affiliations and the evolution of discourses of belonging. It also traces the dynamics of national decision-making and institution-building, as many of the post-Communist states reconsider their initial ideas and visions of Europe today.

Based on interviews and on secret records of White House-Kremlin contacts, *Not One Inch*, by Mary Elise Sarotte, (Yale University Press, November 2021) shows how the US overcame Russian resistance in the 1990s to expand NATO to more than 900 million people. It also reveals how Washington's tactics transformed the era between the Cold War and the present day, undermining what could have become a lasting partnership.

The Rhetorical Rise and Demise of "Democracy" in Russian Political Discourse, by David Cratis Williams, Marilyn J. Young, and Michael K. Launer, was published by Academic Studies Press in December 2021. These essays examine the arguments and rhetoric used by the US and the USSR following two catastrophes that impacted both countries.

Russian TV Series in the Era of Transition: Genres, Technologies, Identities, edited by Alexander Prokhorov, Elena Prokhorova, and Rimgaila Salys (Academic Studies Press, December 2021) examines contemporary Russian television genres in the age of transition from broadcast to post-broadcast television.

Douglas Smith's new translation of Konstantin Paustovsky's memoir, *The Story of a Life*, was published in January 2022 by Vintage Classics UK.

Marta Dyczok's *Ukraine Calling. A Kaleidoscope from Hromadske Radio 2016-2019* (ibidem-Verlag, May 2021) was featured on the [New Books Network](#). These interviews convey the substance, atmosphere, and flavor of Ukraine on the receiving end of a hybrid war from Russia.

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

David R. Stone et al., eds. *Military Affairs in Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914–22, 2: The Russian Civil War: Campaigns and Operations*, xviii + 302 p. (ISBN 978-089357-439-0), \$44.95.

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

David R. Stone et al., eds. *Military Affairs in Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914–22, 3: The Russian Civil War: Military and Society*, xviii + 320 p., 2021 (978-089357-440-6), \$44.95.

Here an international cohort of authors utilizes a host of newly available sources to investigate institutions, social groups, and social conflict amid the chaos of the Russian Civil War. In addition to studies of intelligence and the Red and White officer corps, the book traces the history of Russia's Cossacks through the war. Explorations of the role of ideology and propaganda along with the problem of desertion from the fighting armies give insight into the motivations of the war's soldiers. Chapters on peasant insurgency and the anarchic conflicts in Ukraine offer a clearer understanding of often-neglected aspects of the Civil War.



Slavica Publishers
Indiana University
1430 N. Willis Drive
Bloomington, IN, USA
47404-2146

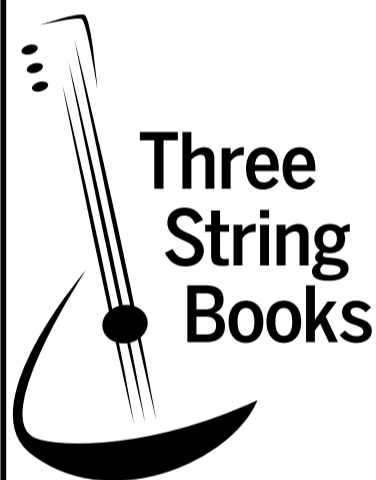
[Tel.] 1-812-856-4186
[Fax] 1-812-856-4187
[Toll-free] 1-877-SLAVICA
slavica@indiana.edu
<http://www.slavica.com>



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.

Anna Starobinets. *Look at Him*, trans. Katherine E. Young, xii + 151 p., 2020 (ISBN 978-089357-503-8), \$19.95.

In this groundbreaking memoir, Anna Starobinets chronicles the devastating loss of her unborn son to a fatal birth defect. A finalist for the 2018 National Bestseller Prize, *Look at Him* ignited a firestorm in Russia, prompting both high praise and severe condemnation for the author's willingness to discuss long-taboo issues of women's agency over their own bodies, the aftereffects of abortion and miscarriage on marriage and family life, and the callousness and ignorance displayed by many in Russia in situations like hers.



Miroslav Maksimović, *Pain*, trans. John Jeffries and Bogdan Rakić, viii + 104 p., 2021 (ISBN 978-089357-508-3), \$19.95.

The fourteen sonnets of *Pain* deal with a historical event from August 1941, when the entire Serbian population of the village of Miostrah were massacred by their Muslim neighbors. Among the more than 180 slaughtered women and children were all the members of Maksimović's mother's immediate family. Thirteen years of age, Maksimović's mother miraculously survived and joined the anti-fascist partisan forces.

Using her tragedy as a paradigm for a national trauma, Maksimović created a work that both contributes to the Serbian culture of remembrance and oversteps the boundaries of memorial literature as it celebrates the triumph of poetry over historical evil.



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, PDF). Contact our business manager at slavica@indiana.com for all questions regarding subscriptions and eligibility for discounts.

Vol. 23, no. 1 (Winter 2022)

Articles

FRANCESCA SILANO

“A Dishonor to You and to the Church”

VILLE SOIMETSÄ

Soviet Cultural Diplomacy with Scandinavians after the Great Terror

RYAN TUCKER JONES

Soviet Whale Scientists and the Crisis in the World's Oceans

JAMES ALLEN NEALY, JR.

Ovsei Shkaratan and the Soviet Social Structure after Stalin

Classics in Retrospect

JEFFREY BROOKS

Re-Reading Two Classics of Russian Cultural History

History and Historians

EVGENII KRESTIANNIKOV

Good Intentions Gone Wrong

Review Essays

VERA KAPLAN

Depicting a Meritocratic Empire

GARRET J. MCDONALD

Marxism, Psychology, and the Soviet Mind



2022 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

To recognize outstanding scholarship and contributions to the field, the Association annually presents prizes and awards during the Annual Convention.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL BOOK PRIZE COMPETITIONS:

For full rules and complete details about all book prizes, [click here](#).

- The copyright date inside the book must be 2021.
- The book must be a monograph, preferably by a single author, or by no more than two authors
- Authors may be of any nationality as long as the work is originally published in English in the US*
- Textbooks, collections, translations (including self-translations/authorial translations), bibliographies, reference works, and self-published works are ineligible
- Works may deal with any area of Eastern Europe, Russia, or Eurasia*
- Additional eligibility requirements unique to each prize competition are listed below

*Except where otherwise indicated

Nominating Instructions:

- Fill out the Book Prize nomination form
- The deadline to nominate books is April 15.
- Each book may be nominated for up to two prizes
- Send one copy of eligible monograph to each committee member according to their stated preference. Mark submissions with the name of the prize(s)
- All nominated books must be received by May 15.

WAYNE S. VUCINICH BOOK PRIZE

The Vucinich Book Prize, sponsored by ASEEES and the Stanford University Center for Russian and East European Studies, is awarded for the most important contribution to Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in any discipline of the humanities or social sciences (including literature, the arts, film, etc. but excluding policy analyses) published in English in the US in 2021.

[Nomination form](#)

USC BOOK PRIZE IN LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES

The USC Book Prize in Literary and Cultural Studies, sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Southern California, is awarded for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe, or Eurasia in the fields of literary & cultural studies (including studies in the visual arts, cinema, music, and dance) in 2021.

[Nomination form](#)

REGINALD ZELNIK BOOK PRIZE IN HISTORY

The Reginald Zelnik Book Prize in History, sponsored by the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, is awarded for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe, or Eurasia in the field of history in 2021.

[Nomination form](#)

Please [click here](#) to read more about the eligibility and nomination requirements for each prize.

DAVIS CENTER BOOK PRIZE IN POLITICAL & SOCIAL STUDIES

The Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies, sponsored by the Kathryn W. and Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, is awarded for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eurasia, or Eastern Europe in anthropology, political science, sociology, geography, or social science works that cross strict disciplinary boundaries in 2021.

Nomination form

MARSHALL D. SHULMAN BOOK PRIZE

The Marshall D. Shulman Book Prize, sponsored by the Harriman Institute of Columbia University, is awarded for an outstanding monograph dealing with the international relations, foreign policy, or foreign-policy decision-making of any of the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe published in 2021.

Nomination form

ED A HEWETT BOOK PRIZE

The Ed A Hewett Book Prize, sponsored by the U of Michigan Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, is awarded for an outstanding monograph on the political economy of Russia, Eurasia and/or Eastern Europe, published in 2021.

Nomination form

BARBARA JELAVICH BOOK PRIZE

The Barbara Jelavich Book Prize, sponsored by the Jelavich estate, is awarded for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history in 2021. Authors must be scholars who are citizens or permanent residents of North America.

Nomination form

KULCZYCKI BOOK PRIZE IN POLISH STUDIES

The Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies, sponsored by the Kulczycki family, former owners of the Orbis Books Ltd. of London, England, is awarded for the best book in any discipline on any aspect of Polish affairs, published in 2021.

Nomination form

W. BRUCE LINCOLN BOOK PRIZE

The W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize, sponsored by Mary Lincoln, is awarded for an author's first published monograph or scholarly synthesis that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia's past, published in 2021.

Nomination form

OMELJAN PRITSAK BOOK PRIZE IN UKRAINIAN STUDIES

The Omeljan Pritsak Book Prize in Ukrainian Studies, sponsored by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, recognizes a distinguished book in the field of Ukrainian studies that was published in 2021.

Nomination form

BETH HOLMGREN GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE

The Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize is awarded for an outstanding essay by a graduate student in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

- Note: Essays should be submitted by the Chairs of the Regional Affiliates or Institutional Members' primary representatives. Graduate students whose institution is not an ASEEES institutional member or is not holding a competition this year, are advised to check the rules for their regional competition. Students cannot self-nominate their papers/must go through the proper nominating procedures.
- [Click through for nominating instructions](#)
- Deadline for submissions: June 1.

ROBERT C. TUCKER/STEPHEN F. COHEN DISSERTATION PRIZE

The Tucker/Cohen Dissertation Prize, established in 2006 and sponsored by the KAT Charitable Foundation, is awarded annually (if there is a distinguished submission) for an outstanding English-language doctoral dissertation in Soviet or Post-Soviet politics and history in the tradition practiced by Robert C. Tucker and Stephen F. Cohen.

- [Click through for nominating instructions.](#)
- Deadline for submissions: May 15.

ASEEES CLIR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE LIBRARIAN AWARD

The ASEEES Committee on Libraries and Information Resources Distinguished Service Award, which was established in 2010, honors ASEEES member librarians, archivists, or curators whose contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies librarianship have been especially noteworthy or influential. The effect of these contributions may be the result of continuous or distinguished service to the profession, but may also be the result of extraordinarily active, innovative or collaborative work that deserves national recognition.

- [Click through](#) for eligibility and nomination instructions.
- Deadline for nominations June 1.

DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD

Established in 1970, the Association's Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award honors members of the profession who have made major contributions to the field. Distinguished Contributions may be conceived of in diverse ways, and the Association seeks to recognize outstanding service, leadership, scholarship, mentoring, and public outreach.

In particular, we hope to receive nominations that highlight noteworthy contributions to public understanding, contributions that innovate and transform the way we understand our regions and our disciplines, and leadership that opens our disciplines to new perspectives and encourages fresh voices in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

- [Click through](#) for eligibility and nomination information
- Deadline for nominations is May 1.