A Letter from the Director

Our cornerstone event this spring was the 19th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore. Originally begun at the University of Chicago by Howard I. Aronson in 1978, the conference has been hosted by a different North American institution every year since 1996 and returned to Chicago for the first time since then. The conference, held April 25-27, 2014, brought together scholars at all stages in their careers from undergraduates to emeriti from all over the world – Albania, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, and the United States, all of whose research focuses on Southeast Europe. Papers discussed a broad range of topics relating to Albanian, Aromanian, Arvanitika, Bosnian, Boyash, Bulgarian, Bunjevacki, Croatian, Greek, Macedonian, Moldovan, Romani, Romanian, Serbian, Slovene, and Turkish language, linguistics, literature, cinema, folklore, and culture, including broad ranging comparative topics within and beyond the Balkans. The exciting array of panels, lively question-and-answer sessions, and informal conversations produced a vibrant and energetic conference and expanded and strengthened a network of scholars from around the world. The conference brought together close to 100 presenters and attendees. The 20th Biennial Conference will be held at the University of Utah.

CEERES also supported a variety of lectures and workshops. We collaborated with the Central Eurasian Studies Committee on their lecture series, including Thomas Barfield’s discussion of “Shadow Empires,” Vera Toltz-Zilitinkevic’s lecture on Tsyben Zhamtsarano and “Reconciling Ethnic Nationalism and Imperial Cosmopolitanism,” and Christine Gruber’s talk on the “Timurid Book of Ascension and Its Relationship to Sino-Central Asian Buddhist Art.” Other notable talks included Elsie Dunin at the EthNoise!” workshop discussing “Forty-Five Years (1967-2012) of a Romani Spring Event in Skopje, Macedonia” and Ambassador Ian Kelly speaking on “The US, Russia, and Bridging the East-West Divide.” CEERES also had the opportunity to promote cultural and educational events in the Chicago area, including the Balkan Rhythms and Dances lecture, workshop, and performance at I-House on February 16, a Global Voices Authors Night on February 26 with Kenan Trebinčević, author of “The Bosnia List: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Return,” and the Serbian Film Retrospective which ran from March 30 – June 29 at Serbian American Museum St. Sava-Tesla. On 14 March, in response to events in Ukraine and in cooperation with CIS and the Institute of Politics, we also co-organized a teach-in on Ukraine moderated by Ambassador Kelly and Stan Markus of UChicago’s Political Science Department with participation of David Meale, Counselor for Economic Affairs at the United States Embassy in Kiev who joined us over Skype.

This spring CEERES also co-organized and co-hosted with CIS and University of Chicago area centers the 2014 Summer Teacher Institute. This year’s theme was “Energy and the Global Environment: Science, History, Politics. Forty two K-16 teachers participated in the three-day institute that incorporated perspectives from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to examine how concerns over energy scarcity and energy sustainability can be translated into creative classroom instruction. The CEERES region figured prominently in several of the presentations and discussions given the current state of energy and oil in the geopolitics and economics of Ukraine, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

CEERES capped off this busy and successful year by submitting an NRC and FLAS grant proposal in late June. We hope that these proposals will be successful so that we will be able to continue to offer engaging programming concerning Eurasia and serve the CEERES community. For additional information on past and upcoming events as well as online resources for the CEERES region, please visit our website at http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/.

--Victor A. Friedman, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Department of Linguistics and CEERES Director
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CEERES News is the biannual newsletter of The Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at The University of Chicago.

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Every gift allows CEERES to do something that we would not be able to do otherwise, whether it’s an additional lecture, further community outreach or extra support for our students and faculty. Your contributions do make a difference.

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Thank you for your generosity!

CEERES Speakers Bureau

CEERES faculty and students not only study our world region, but also use their regional expertise to illuminate issues in art, history, culture, and politics. A CEERES guest speaker is thus a tremendous resource that can enhance learning in a variety of contexts, and CEERES is always happy to work to schedule guest speakers to visit Chicago area schools and cultural centers. To explore the possibility of arranging for a CEERES speaker, please contact ceeres@uchicago.edu or the CEERES outreach coordinator at 773-702-0875.

Subscription to the newsletter is free. Please send suggestions, corrections, address changes, or inquiries to the above contact information.
Seeing Sochi: Old Hostilities on Stage Again

By Willian Nickell
wnickell@uchicago.edu

As the first fanfare of the opening ceremony of the Sochi Olympics built its final flourish, the performers raised their arms, and the luminous snowflakes floating above the arena formed a familiar pattern and began opening into rings. One snowflake, however, failed to open and to interlock with the other rings of the Olympic symbol. “SochiFail,” which in the days leading up to the opening ceremony had already become a Twitter phenomenon, was now an international broadcast event. The unopened ring underscored a series of reports by the western media that Sochi had not been adequately prepared for the opening of the Games.

Some zealous interpreters noted that the fifth ring is red in the color version of the symbol, and saw a Russia that had not overcome its communist legacy. Others, because the fifth ring was at one time thought to represent the Americas, suggested it might have been an intentional snub. If anything is to be read into the incident, however, it might be more productive to consider how it reflects a long history of imperception between the host country and the west.

In “The Bronze Horseman,” Pushkin famously described Petersburg as Russia’s “window to Europe.” The building of a new capitol on the Gulf of Finland represented a deliberate turn toward the culture and learning of Europe. But from the 18th century forward, the Russian adoption of western thinking has been very selective, and often the fundamental principles and ideas of the western world have been resolutely rejected. Marxism was embraced, but the Bolsheviks hardened inherited national positions on the freedom of expression, and canonized anti-modernist positions in the arts. In post-Soviet Russia, western business models and financial mechanisms have been borrowed, but resistance to liberal humanism continues to sharpen. In this respect there is remarkable continuity in Russian history of the past three hundred years. The Russian attitude toward western culture is aptly represented by the Falconet monument to which Pushkin’s poem refers: facing west, the horse rears over the edge of an abyss, while Peter pulls back on the reigns.

For its part, the west has continually viewed Russia as a backward participant in European history. In a famous travelogue of 1839 the Marquis de Custine concluded that Russia was an “Asiatic” country hiding behind a European mask. Custine was essentially...
expanding upon the notion of the Potemkin Village, a term that entered the English language in reference to a legend of faked progress in the expansion of the Russian empire in the 18th century. The same term has been used recently to describe the Russia that was represented to the world in Sochi. The Olympic Village and surrounding infrastructure was an elaborate façade, and the discerning western observer understood that any examination of the Games required some wary peering beneath this exterior.

Vladimir Putin had avowed that the Sochi Games would showcase a new Russia—one that was on par with the most advanced nations of the world. He embraced the Olympic paradigm as a kind of international building code for physical, social and cultural construction. Conforming to these standards legitimated a certain confidence in the formula “if we build it, we will earn their respect.” The Russian investment was huge (55 billion dollars, or nine times what was spent for the 2010 Games in Vancouver), but Putin also staked a great deal of political capital in the project. He was defiant of his critics, and boasted of his confidence in Russia’s ability to shine under Olympic scrutiny. He personally approved a series of remarkable plans for Sochi, including the construction of artificial islands, one sporting a building shaped in the form of the Olympic torch, and another in the shape of Russia itself. If it had not already been clear, when the world looked at Sochi, it was supposed to see a new Russia. A slogan summarizing this idea could be seen everywhere in the host city: “Sochi — City of the Future.”

The eye of the western observer, however, has been focused on those elements that link the Olympic city to Russia’s past, and to its failures. Many of the more fantastic projects (including the islands) fell victim to financial, architectural, and legal restraints, while a number of others were famously “almost” finished. Accommodations for the press were inadequate, and led to the explosion of negative images on the twittersphere. As political cartoonist David Horsey of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote: “Journalists and travelers to the Games have been sending stories, photos and tweets about new hotels that are open for business only in the sense that they will take your money. Muddy construction sites surround the unfinished lodgings. Front desks are unmanned. Doorknobs are missing. Light bulbs are scarce. Water from faucets comes out brown and with warnings to avoid using it for drinking or washing. Toilets can’t flush away toilet paper. Furnishings are so spare and stark they make a Motel 6 look like the Ritz.” Considering these problems next to the huge expenditures laid out for the Games provided clear evidence, Horsey concluded, that “just as the hotels really are not ready for guests, Russia is not ready to claim it is a modern state.”

Another Horsey cartoon (February 11) depicted the mayor of Sochi, the contractor for the Olympic hotels, and Josef Stalin emerging from beneath the costumes of the friendly mascots of the Games. Stalin gloats at being able to play the “cuddly bear,” who is intentionally reminiscent of the famous 1980 mascot Misha, designed by an illustrator of children’s books. Misha was clearly intended as a disarming ambassador for the 1980 Games, but in the end, Cold War hostilities prevailed. Sixty countries joined a boycott organized by the United States in protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Soviet authorities had hoped that the Games might improve their image, but instead faced a public relations disaster. Leonid Brezhnev, a veteran strategist of the Cold War, had anticipated something of this sort. In December 1975 he wrote to Konstantin Chernenko suggesting the possibility of backing out of the Soviet Union’s commitment to host the Games: he was con-

![A balloon of the 1980 Olympic mascot, Misha, at the opening ceremony in Moscow. Image courtesy of William Nickell.](image-url)
cerned about the cost, but also that there could be “all sorts of scandals that could bring disgrace to the Soviet Union.” Brezhnev was himself later the butt of a popular joke that revealed Soviet performance anxieties: speaking at the opening ceremony, the elderly leader begins by reading aloud the symbol at the top of the page, “O-O-O-O-O.”

The stuttering Olympic rings in the Sochi ceremony realized the national anxiety expressed in this joke. The Sochi Olympics also brought the scandals that Brezhnev had foreseen, most notably the international outcry over the Russian parliament’s June 2013 prohibition of “Propaganda of Non-traditional Sexual Relations Among Minors,” which led to a step-down of official U.S. representation at the Games. The Russian government argued that the law did not discriminate against members of the LGBT community, but was simply intended to protect the nation’s children. The Soviet government had undertaken similar measures to protect the nation’s children from contact with western, liberal values on the eve of the Moscow Olympiad. Parents were urged to send their children away from the city during the summer of 1980, either to summer camps or to stay with relatives.

While the Olympic movement intends to dispel such mutual mistrust, it is clear that the 2014 Games have only served to sharpen old antipathies. One wonders if the Ukraine situation might not have been more peaceably negotiated had Cold War tensions not been stoked already by the waging of the Games.

The Sochi Olympics represented a second chance for Russia after the 1980 boycott to bring the world community together on Russian soil in a spirit of competitive friendship. While there was no physical boycott of the Games in Sochi, there were certainly spiritual ones. The Russian media took note of the dark pleasure their western journalists were taking in documenting failures of any measure in Sochi. In this case, the eye of the camera was opened wide.

Bianca Chamusco, a University of Chicago graduate student, found that many of the images uploaded to the Sochi Fails and other similar sites were actually faked or cribbed from other locations: a bathtub of yellow water, for instance, hailed from West Virginia. (Her research can be found at: wheninsochi.wordpress.com.) The heavily politicized Olympics form another in a long series of compromised apertures through which Russia and the West have observed one another. Rapt attention through this lens can exaggerate differences and distort, rather than clarify, the image one country has of another. While the world stage allows countries to misrepresent realities, (the New York Times found that the 1936 Games made the Germans “more human again”), so too does the eye trained upon failures, particularly when empowered with the tools of social media. Western schadenfreude was also carefully noted in Russia, with the result that the Sochi Olympiad reiterated the lessons of 1980, and did little to open paths of meaningful engagement across the old Cold War barriers.

William Nickell (Ph.D 1998, University of California, Berkeley) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of Chicago. A cultural historian specializing in mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century Russia, his research focuses on media studies and cultural production. He has taught classes on “Tolstoy & The Epic Voice,” “Soviet Everyday Life,” “19th Century Russian Cultural Production,” and “Realism in Russia.”

Endnotes
Recent Events

“The Fourth Partition” deftly weaves together Polish and American history with the growth and industrialization of Chicago as it describes the immigration of 4 million Poles at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries. Producer and director Adrian Prawica introduced the film and lead a discussion. Co-sponsored with Slavic Languages & Literatures, the CLC, and PASA.

Jarosław Kuisz spoke on “Dissident Culture, the Collapse of the Paper Press, and New Media: From New Europe to the Arab Spring (The Kultura Liberalna Internet Weekly Story)” at the Franke Institute. Kuisz is the editor of Kultura Liberalna, one of the most important and influential on-line new magazines in Poland and he is an assistant professor of law at the University of Warsaw. He has written on the history of Polish philosophy and worked tirelessly for journalistic progress in Poland and beyond, including meeting with journalists from Myanmar and Egypt to discuss the role of journalists in transitional times. Co-sponsored with the Central Europe Workshop, Kultura Liberalna, and the Franke Institute.

At the Central Europe Workshop, Beth Holmgren presented a talk entitled “Improvising Poland on the March: Entertaining Polish and Allied Troops During World War II.” Holmgren is known for her work on the Polish and American actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska); her most recent research examines performance art, such the literary cabaret Qui Pro Quo, and culture in Poland during the inter-war years. Holmgren is Professor in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and Department of Theater at Duke University. The presentation was co-sponsored with the Central Europe Workshop, Theater and Performance Studies Workshop, the Slavic Department, and the Maria Kuncewicz Fund.

Ian Kelly, US Diplomat-in-Residence for the Midwest, and David Meale, State Department representative from Kiev, discussed recent events in Ukraine, responded to pre-gathered questions from University of Chicago faculty, and answered questions from an audience of sixty-five. This teach-in was an important opportunity to learn more about the current political situation and engage US State Department representatives and University faculty about recent events in Ukraine and the region. Stan Markus, Professor in the Department of Political Science, moderated the event. Co-sponsored with CIS and IOP.
In the spring, CEERES hosted the 19th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore. The conference brought together scholars at all stages in their careers, from promising undergraduates to emeriti, in the fields of Balkan and Southeast European linguistics, literature, cinema, folklore, and culture. The exciting array of panels, lively question-and-answer sessions, and informal conversations produced a vibrant and energetic conference and expanded and strengthened a network of scholars from thirteen different countries around the world. More information and the conference schedule is available at http://ceeres.uchicago.edu.

Masha Gessen discussed her acclaimed book, *Words will Break Cement*, on the Russian activist group Pussy Riot. Pussy Riot captured international attention in 2012 when footage of their “punk prayer” in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow beseeching the “Mother of God” to “get rid of Putin” went viral. Drawing on her exclusive, extensive access to the members of Pussy Riot and their families and associates, Gessen’s riveting account of the event and the subsequent arrest, trials, and sentencing of several members of the group tells how such a phenomenon came about. Co-sponsored with CIS, Seminary Co-op Bookstore, the Human Rights Program, and the Center for Sexuality and Gender Studies.

Krassimira Daskalova presented a talk entitled, “Clio On the Margins: on the Developments of Women’s and Gender History in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.” Daskalova is a research fellow at Harvard and professor of modern European cultural history at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski in Bulgaria. Her most recent monograph is *Women, Gender, and Modernization in Bulgaria, 1878–1944* (in Bulgarian), published by Sofia University Press in 2012. Co-sponsored with Central Europe Workshop, Slavic Colloquium, Anthropology Department, History Department, and CSGS.

The 2014 UChicago Summer Teacher Institute brought together a diverse set of teachers from grades K-16 to discuss “Energy & The Global Environment.” This year’s institute incorporated perspectives from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to examine how concerns over energy scarcity and energy sustainability can be translated into creative classroom instruction. Susanne Wengle (Political Science) discussed “Energy and Politics in Russian and the Former Soviet Union.” Other topics included fracking, sustainable design, and teaching demos on steam and solar energy. Additional information and resources are available at http://cis.uchicago.edu/outreach/summerinstitute/2014/
During the 2013-2014 academic year, CEERES collaborated with the Central Eurasian Studies Committee and CIS to hold a lecture series on topics in Central Eurasian history and culture.

**November 15:** Devin DeWeese (Indiana University, Bloomington) “Islamization and the Boundaries of the Umma: Tales from the Religious Frontiers of Central Asia in the 14th and 15th centuries”

**January 31:** Thomas Barfield (Boston University) “Chasing Shadow Empires”

**February 21:** Vera Tolz-Zilitinkevic (University of Manchester) “Reconciling Ethnic Nationalism and Imperial Cosmopolitanism: The Lifeworlds of Tsyben Zhamtsaran”

**March 7:** Christine Gruber (University of Michigan) “The Timurid Book of Ascension and its Relationship to Sino-Central Asian Buddhist Art”

**April 18:** Peter Perdue (Yale University) “When Central Eurasia was not Central: Starnge and Familiar Parallels, 1350-1750”

**May 14:** Morgan Liu (The Ohio State University) “What Does Central Eurasian Studies Really Need Now?”

For more information on the Central Eurasian Studies Committee visit centraleurasia.uchicago.edu.

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**Jan Karski Conference on Memory and Responsibility September 19-20, 2014**

Loyola University will host the Jan Karski 2014 Conference, a two-day conference in Chicago bringing together leading scholars from around the world to discuss the two themes of “Memory and Responsibility,” centered around the life and legacy of Jan Karski, a Polish World War II resistance fighter. The conference is sponsored by a grant from Loyola University’s President Michael J. Garanzini and the Interdisciplinary Polish Studies Program, with contribution from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago and in collaboration with the Jan Karski Educational Foundation. For further information and preliminary program, please visit http://www.jankarski.net/en/news-and-events/upcoming-events/karski-conference-at-loyola-university-chicago.html.


The 7th International Education Conference will be held November 7th at I-House on the University of Chicago. Through presentations and breakout sessions, the conference will explore curriculum that addresses global issues and problem-solving strategies applicable to everyday dilemmas that students confront.

**The North Caucasus: Changes and Challenges Conference**

In 2014-15, CEERES will host a conference on the North Caucasus in order to take stock of the field, assess the contemporary state of knowledge, and discuss new directions of investigation. “The North Caucasus: Changes and Challenges” will focus particularly on Daghestan. Daghestan is the linguistically most complex and in recent years politically most volatile republic in the Russian Federation. The linguistic complexity is millennia old. Political volatility by some metrics is more recent. Bordering as it does on Azerbaijan, Georgia and Chechnya, as well as other units in the Russian Federation, in addition to its Caspian Sea Coast, the linguistic and political connections of the various ethno-national groups in Daghestan, add to this complexity. The date of the conference will be announced fall quarter and more information will be available on the website in the upcoming months.
Library News

By June Farris
Bibliographer for Slavic, E. European & Eurasian Studies
jpf3@uchicago.edu

New Projects, Services, and Guides

The Library’s “Research Guides by Subject” page has been reorganized. The Slavic Libguide is now found under Area & Cultural Studies and the link to Slavic & East European Literature is now under Literature.

New Databases and Other Electronic Resources

Stalin Digital Archive
The Stalin Digital Archive contains a selection of documents from Fond 558, which covers Stalin’s personal biography, his work in government, and his conduct of foreign affairs.
Opis 1: documents written by Stalin from 1889-1952.
Opis 2: documents written by Stalin from 1911-1944.
Opis 3: over 300 books from Stalin’s personal library with his marginal notes.
Opis 4: Stalin’s biographical materials
Opis 11: Stalin’s correspondence and documents. This Opis covers a period from 1917 to 1952.

AOC Volumes: the 25 volumes from YUP’s Annals of Communism series.

Russian Satirical Journals, 1905-1907
The Library’s collection of 110 Russian satirical journals (housed in the Special Collections Research Center) has now been digitized. You can access the individual titles by typing “Russian Satirical Journals” in the LENS search box and then refine your search to E-Resource in order to pull up each individual record and the link to its full-text online.

Pressburger Zeitung, (1764-1929)
1917-1921 digitized at: DVDRom AN184.3.B73P74 Manuscript

Literaturnoe Nasledstvo
The Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences has recently digitized v. 1-92 of the journal Literaturnoe Nasledstvo at: http://www.imli.ru/structure/litnasled/elbibl.php

New Reference Titles: A Selection

Americanisms: słownik amerykanizmów. (2013)
Bol’shoi entsiklopedicheskii slovar’ Sibiri i Dal’nego Vostoka. 4v. (2011-2013)
Frazeolohichnyi slovnyk lemkivs’kykh hovirok (2013)
Hrvatski biografski leksikon. v. 1- (1983-)
Ibrahimović, Faruk. Rječnik turcizama u bosanskom jeziku sa tumačenjem i prevodom na engleski jezik = Dictionary of Turkish loan words in the Bosnian language explained and translated into English. (2012)
Istoriiia Kavkaza v litsakh: biograficheskii slovar’ (2000)
New Exhibit

By June Farris
Bibliographer for Slavic, E. European & Eurasian Studies

The August 1914: The Eastern Front
Regenstein Second Floor Reading Room
August – December 2014

In August 1914, most of the countries that we now think of as Eastern Europe (or Central Europe or Southeastern Europe or East Central Europe - nothing about this area of the world is less than complex and multi-faceted!) were either part of one or another of the region’s multinational, multilingual, and multi-religious empires—the Russian Empire, the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire or the Ottoman Empire—or had just recently struggled free from decades or centuries of imperial rule. On this centennial of the beginning of The Great War, this small exhibit is an attempt to place these countries “on the map” as they were in August 1914. It is an almost impossible task, as the complexity of the borders, alliances, relationships and aspirations of these crumbling empires and emerging nations were to clash mightily and disastrously as they positioned themselves on the Eastern Front.

Yiddish Films on DVD

By Sunny Yudkoff
Department of Germanic Studies

In honor of Judi Nadler, Director and University Librarian of the University of Chicago Library, the Library Society has provided the funds to purchase Yiddish films from the early 20th century (1928-1948) available on DVD. These included DVDs that will replace those that are in VHS format in the library’s collections as well as a number of films newly restored by the National Center for Jewish Film. This process was overseen by Sarah G. Wenzel, Bibliographer for Literature of Europe & Americas, and Nancy Speigel, Bibliographer for Art & Cinema as well as History.

New Films and Documentaries

Diamonds of the Night = Démanty noci. Directed by Jan Němec. [Lustig story about 2 Jewish boys who are hunted down after escaping from a Nazi train headed for the camps]
I Dream of Mummers. Written and directed by Adela Peeva. [documentary about the inhabitants of Sushitsa in North Bulgaria]
Prayer for Katrine Horovitz = Modlitba pro Kateřinu Horovitzovou. Directed by Antonin Moskalyk. [a Polish singer trades Jewish lives for Nazi officers imprisoned in American jails]
Our Newspaper. A film by Eline Flipse. [a Russian couple starts their own newspaper in Ulianovsk]
Romeo, Juliet and Darkness = Romeo, Julie a tma. Directed by Jiří Weiss. [Jan Otčenášk novel set in 1942, the love story of a young student who hides a teenage Jewish girl]
Transport from Paradise. Directed by Zbyek Brynych.

Image from page 11: Mansueto Library. Courtesy of Juliana Brodksy.
Image above: Political map of Europe in 1914. courtesy of June Farris
Faculty News

Philip V. Bohlman (Music)

Activities
Franz Rosenzweig Professor at the University of Kassel (Germany) during the Summer Semester of 2014.

Recording
With his cabaret ensemble, the New Budapest Orpheum Society, ensemble-in-residence with the Humanities Division, he has also just completed the recording of the CD, “As Dreams Fall Apart: The Golden Age of Jewish Stage and Film Music, 1925–1955,” which will appear on the Cedille Records label in autumn 2014.

Publications

Victor A. Friedman (Linguistics, CEERES Director)

Publications

Articles

Reviews

Bozena Shallcross (Slavic)

Publications


Book translated (from English into Polish)

Conferences and workshops
- The Effect of The Unswept Floor, International Conference (Nie) przezroczystość normalności: Obrazy ładu, porządku w literaturze polskiej XX i XXI wieku, Warsaw University, November 2013.
- Prof. Benjamin Paloff’s Book Manuscript, The Manuscript Workshop, University of Michigan, 19 October 2013.
- The Future of Polish/Jewish Studies, a public roundtable and discussion at OSU, Columbus and the OSU Polish Studies Initiatives workshop, Monday March 24, 2014.
- Graduate Workshop on Central Europe, faculty sponsor.
- Graduate Memory and Trauma Study Group, faculty sponsor.
Olga Solovieva (Committee on Social Thought)

Publications

Student and Alumni News

Elizabeth G. A. Fagan (History & Anthropology)

Awards

Kathryn Franklin (Ph.D. 2014, Anthropology)

Awards
ARISC Junior Fellow 2014 for archaeological excavation Arai, Armenia under the Medieval Archaeology of the South Caucasus (MASC) Project.

Publications

Leah Goldman (History)

Awards

Alan Greene (Ph.D. 2013, Anthropology)

Awards
ARISC Junior Fellow 2014 for the project “Late Bronze Age Political Economies in the South Caucasus: The View from Aragatsi Berd and Armenia’s Plain of Flowers.”

Publications
Kristy Ironside (Ph.D. 2014, History)

Awards
Post Doctoral Fellow at the Higher School of Economics, in Moscow 2014-2015.

Maureen E. Marshall (Ph.D. 2014, Anthropology; CEERES Outreach and Campus Programs Coord.)

Awards
Wenner Gren Engaged Anthropology Grant, awarded for summer 2014 for “Articulating Ancient Lives: Diet, Health, and Mobility in Late Bronze Age (1500-1150 B.C.) Armenia.”

Publications

Esther Peters (Ph.D. 2014, Slavic)

Appointment
Instructor in the English Department at Loyola University.

Daniel Pratt (Ph.D. 2014, Slavic)

Appointment
Visiting Assistant Professor in Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at the Ohio State University 2014-2015.

Sophia Rehm (B.A. 2012, Slavic)

Awards
Vestnik Jury Award for “Worlds within Words: A Translation of Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky’s ‘The Rosary.’”

Publications

Other Activities

Recent Ph.D.s

Joseph Feinberg, Department of Anthropology
Katheryn Franklin, Department of Anthropology
Christian Hilchey, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
Brian Horne, Department of Anthropology
Kristy Ironside, Department of History
Maureen E. Marshall, Department of Anthropology
Esther Peters, Department of Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
Daniel Pratt, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Congratulations to our Summer 2014 FLAS recipients!

Kaitlyn Tucker, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Slovene
Eric Philips, Department of History, Czech
Giovanni Ricci, Department of Anthropology, Czech
Monica Felix, Department of Comparative Literature, Russian
Patrick Lewis, Department of Anthropology, Turkish
Jonah Simpson, Department of Anthropology, Russian
Kristy Ironside, Department of History, Georgian
ASEEES Awards
the 2014 Distinguished Contributions Award to Victor A. Friedman


The 2014 Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award, which honors senior scholars who have helped to build and develop the field through scholarship, training, and service to the profession, is presented to Victor A. Friedman, the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at the University of Chicago.

In 1975, Victor Friedman received the University of Chicago’s first dual PhD in the Humanities Division from the Departments of Linguistics and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Between 1975 and 1993 he taught at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and then returned to Chicago, where he holds an appointment in the Department of Linguistics, with an associate appointment in Anthropology, and has directed the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies since 2005.

A renowned sociolinguist, Friedman is one of the world’s foremost authorities on the languages of the Balkans and the Caucasus, with particular specialization in grammatical categories, languages in contact, issues of language variation and standardization, and the juncture of language and the politics of ethnicity and nationalism. Rooted in more than three decades of intensive ethnographic field research, his studies have treated more than fifteen regional languages, including Albanian, Aromanian (Vlah), Azeri, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (especially the Torlak dialects), Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek, Judezmo, Lak, Macedonian, Megleno-Romanian, Old Church Slavonic, Romani, Romanian, Russian, Tajik, and Turkish. Inflected by an exemplary knowledge of regional folklore, sociocultural lifeways, and cultural history, his work is appreciated widely by scholars across disciplinary divides. His productivity is staggering in volume, topical breadth and interdisciplinarity: between his first book The Grammatical Categories of the Macedonian Indicative and his latest, Speaking the Language: Modes of Culture and Identity in Southeast Europe in Southeast Asia, he has authored 11 monographs, 13 edited works, half a dozen translations, and nearly 300 articles. A cherished speaker, he has given close to 500 colloquia, guest lectures and conference papers.

Professor Friedman has garnered numerous accolades of national and international distinction, among them a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Fellowship, an ACTR/ACCELS Title VIII Research Scholar, and an ACLS/NEH/SSRC International and Area Studies Fellowship. He has been elected a foreign member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences, of Matica Srpska, and of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kosovo, alongside numerous visiting appointments. He has generously served his profession: as a member of the AAASS/ASEEES since 1975, he has been on the executive and nominating committees. He was the president of the American Association for Southeastern European Studies. He has served on the editorial boards of leading journals, and has consulted for countless foundations and organizations. His work as a Senior Policy and Political Analyst on behalf of the United Nations Protection Forces during the Yugoslav wars of succession, and his contributions to the South Balkan Project of the Center for Preventative Action of the Council of Foreign Relations and US Institute for Peace are noteworthy and laudable.

As if this were not enough, Victor Friedman is a wonderful mentor and colleague; a connoisseur of regional cuisine, including drinks, music and dance; and he is equally renowned for his outstanding scholarship and his superb sense of humor. In recognition of his lifetime achievement, we honor our esteemed colleague with the highest award of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

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New Faces at Chicago

Liviu Bordaş

Liviu Bordaş is a Scientific Researcher in religious studies at the “New Europe College” Institute of Advanced Studies in Bucharest, Romania. In 2012-2013 he was a visiting scholar at the Divinity School at the University of Chicago on a Senior Fulbright Fellowship. He returns to Chicago July 31st – October 2nd in order to continue his research with the Mircea Eliade Papers at the Special Collections Research Center in Regenstein Library. His publications deal with Indian philosophies and religions, the image of India in Romanian culture, the relationship between orientalism and “balkanism”, and the work of Mircea Eliade and Ioan Petru Culianu. His most recent works investigate the influence of India on Eliade’s thought and the connection between scholarship and politics in his life. Bordaş earned a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Bucharest in 2010 and is currently working on a second PhD in Sanskrit at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

Monika Nalepa

Monika Nalepa is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department. She comes to the University of Chicago from the University of Notre Dame where she researched institutions related to democratization. In 2010, She published Skeletons in the Closet: Transitional Justice in PostCommunist Europe (Cambridge University Press, 2010), an award-winning book about how new democracies of East Central Europe dealt or refrained from dealing with the former communist autocrats and their collaborators. Currently, Professor Nalepa is involved in two large projects. One of them examines the development of anti-communist attitudes in her native Poland prior to the transition to democracy using a series of public opinion surveys that were commissioned by the post-Martial Law regime. A second project looks at political parties that developed in East Central Europe in the aftermath of communism and what determines whether they start representing actual cleavages in society, rather than reflecting the post-authoritarian regime divide. She pursues this question using a rich dataset on parliamentary behavior spanning nine post-communist countries. Professor Nalepa plans to organize a workshop in Fall 2015 around themes that she is working on for an article entitled, “Empire's Shadow: the persistence of soviet legacies in Central European parliaments.” A sample of her current work is presented below.

The Missing Link(s): Imperial Legacies and Anti-Communist Attitudes in Poland

By Monika Nalepa (Political Science) and Grigore Pop-Eleches

(Note: The research presented here will be presented by Monika Nalepa at the American Political Science Association meeting in Washington, D.C. It is part of an ongoing project with Grigore Pop-Eleches, Princeton University.)

Can the historical Partitions that divided Poland among three empires: Habsburg, Prussia, and Russia explain the evolution of anti-communist attitudes in communist Poland? Scholars have been puzzled about the mechanisms responsible for patterns of electoral voting behavior in post-transition Poland, which reflect historical events dating back two centuries ago and which seem to have survived four decades of communist rule. But in order for the communist era to carry this puzzling legacy, we would expect evidence of it before the transition itself. In search for this “missing link,” we analyze a set of ten surveys carried out on representative national samples in Poland between 1984 (one year after the end of Martial Law) and 1990 (the year of the transition to democracy). All surveys were carried out by the Center for Public Opinion Research, a polling company created in the aftermath of the rise of the dissident trade union Solidarity, after the authorities realized that relying on reports from the secret police alone left them unprepared for outbreaks of popular dissidence. As a result, the surveys offer a unique opportunity for understanding the dynamics of regime support and opposition in the final years of communist rule in Poland. We find that although imperial legacies explain some of the variation in anti-authoritarian attitudes, a key intervening variable is church attendance. Specifically, frequent church attendance increases the effect of living in areas with the longest Polish autonomy (due to being part of the Duchy of Warsaw, the Krakow Republic, and inter-war Poland) on anti-communist attitudes, but has the opposite effect in areas that were resettled after the Yalta Treaty.
The University of Chicago Division of Humanities presents

Humanities Day
Saturday, October 18, 2014

Explore new topics in literature, visual arts, linguistics, music, and more at the 36th annual Humanities Day at the University of Chicago. Including presentations by,

Session 1: 9:30a.m. - 10:30a.m.
The Use and Abuse of Linguistics at the U.S. Supreme Court
Allison LaCroix and Jason Merchant

What Makes Them Run, What Slows Them Down: Cinematics Looks at Film History and Culture
Yuri Tsivian

Keynote Address 11:00a.m. - 12:00pm
Languages in Danger: Why Should We Care?
Lenore Grenoble

Tours: 12:30p.m. - 2:00p.m
Highlights of the Collection: A Guided Tour of the Oriental Institute. - 1:00p.m.

Session 2: 2:00 - 3:00pm
The Golden Age of Jewish Film Music
Philip V. Bohlman

Session 3: 3:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.
Bilingual Knowledge, Bilingual Stories
Anastasia Giannakidou, Sayed Kashua, and Na'ama Rokem

From Sochi to the Crimea: Episodes in the Rise of a New Cold War
William Nickell

Free and open to the public.
For registration, full program, room location, and additional information visit http://humanitiesday2014.uchicago.edu/