



CEERES News

Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



A Letter from the Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends of CEERES,

In this issue of CEERES News, you will read about the Center's diverse array of activities during the 2015-16 academic year, including individual achievements of our faculty, students, alumni, and Associates. In my first year as Director of CEERES, we have continued the trajectory of rich programming that was established under Victor Friedman's leadership and started moving in some new directions, as well.

You will notice that for 2015-16 we have moved to an annual newsletter that reports on the entire academic year; in lieu of the historical biannual publication, we have begun a new blog - East from Chicago - that will regularly report on events relating to Russia and Eastern Europe at the University of Chicago [<https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/eastfromchicago/>]. Published several times each term, East from Chicago brings highlights of the University's intellectual life to subscribers around the world in reports written by faculty and graduate students. It is hoped that East from Chicago will not only encourage the organization of more events and bring them to the notice of a broader audience, but also will bolster the University's reputation as the site of original, critical thinking about the region across a multitude of disciplines.

The blog covered several of the major programs organized with CEERES support, starting with October's panel discussion "Russia on the Brink? (Europe on Alert)" focusing on the aftermath of the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution, the role of the US, Russian state corruption, and the social roots of Russia's recent crisis. In January, CEERES hosted a roundtable discussion on Svetlana Alexievich, winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize for Literature. February's highlight was a major international conference, "In Empire's Long Shadow: Modern Constructions of Central Eurasia, 1900-1941", which examined aspects of Central Eurasian history and culture at a time when empires crumbled in the wake of World War I and revolutionary transformation rocked the entire territory, from Iran and the Turkish Republic to the Soviet republics of Central Asia and Transcaucasia and across Xinjiang, Mongolia, and Siberia. The 2016

SOYUZ Symposium, "The Politics of Difference: Migration, Nation, Postsocialist Left and Right", took place on our campus in March. This year's symposium took its impetus from the ongoing refugee crisis now gripping postsocialist Europe. However, presentations were not limited to Europe and addressed a host of themes about the broader postsocialist world, including two special sessions: one on Roms in postsocialist Europe, the other a roundtable on the current trajectory of Left and Right politics in Hungary, Russia and Ukraine. At the end of April, Slavists and film enthusiasts came together to welcome the legendary Czech film director Ivan Passer for "Pearls of the Czech New Wave," an evening of conversation and film, featuring the film anthology Pearls of the Deep and including the Chicago premiere of Passer's short film, A Boring Afternoon.

CEERES also collaborated with several other units on campus to offer educational outreach activities, including the April International Education Conference, "Sensing Place, Sharing Stories: Global Literacy in the 21st Century Classroom". Don Belt, Professor of Journalism at the University of Richmond and former Senior Editor, National Geographic magazine, presented a curriculum he has developed on Paul Salopek's historical Out of Eden Walk, to highlight the pedagogical value of slow journalism, storytelling, critical thinking, cultural literacy, and digital media learning. Most recently, we also partnered with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to offer the successful Summer Teacher Institute, "Global Issues in Local Contexts: Turning International Journalism into Teachable Lessons," to address how contemporary challenges are handled in different places around the world and how educators can present such topics to students in a way that will both engage them and connect them to the larger world. Finally, we engaged 60 high school students from the greater Chicago area in Champaign, IL at the annual ACTR Illinois Olympiada of Spoken Russian, hosted by our colleagues from REEEC at UIUC.

This letter only describes a handful of the activities CEERES has been so fortunate to take part in hosting or publicizing, but it hopefully gives you readers a snapshot of this past year and entices you to watch for another exciting roster of activities in 2016-17. We wish everyone a safe and productive summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Susan Gal
Mae & Sidney G. Metzl Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Anthropology and CEERES Director

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CEERES News is the now annual newsletter of The Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at the University of Chicago.

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Subscription to the newsletter is free. Please send suggestions, corrections, address changes, or inquiries to the above contact information.

Need a CEERES speaker?

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 can be a tremendous resource and can enhance learning in a variety of contexts. CEERES is always happy to help 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 call the Outreach Coordinator at 773-702-0875.

The Return of No-Man's Land



“Visit to Röszke and Tompa, Hungary” photo by Rebecca Harms shared under Creative Commons license (BY 2.0)

By **Tara Zahra**

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Note: This is a shortened version of a piece originally published in Foreign Affairs in September 2015.

No-Man's Land is back. On Tuesday (September 15, 2015), around 1,000 refugees were reportedly stranded in on the border between Hungary and Serbia, as neither state would admit them. The return of “No-Man's Land” on East European soil is yet another disturbing reminder (in a year of such reminders) of how history can repeat itself. “No-Man's Land” was last seen in East Central Europe in 1938, when governments played a sick game of ping-pong with unwanted Jewish refugees, shunting them back and forth across state borders.

In one infamous incident in 1938, the Polish government passed legislation that stripped most Polish Jews living outside Poland of their Polish citizenship. Three days before the measure took effect, on October 28, 1938, Nazis rounded up 17,000 Polish Jews living in Nazi Germany and attempted to deport them to Poland. Poland promptly closed its borders. Thousands of Jews were suspended in the no-man's land between the Polish and German border near *Zbąszyń* that November. They were housed in miserable conditions in tents, barracks, condemned military stables, or simply outdoors, exposed to the elements.¹

Hannah Arendt, the century's most famous theorist of refugeedom (and a refugee herself), saw such scenes as a symptom of the interwar obsession with national sovereignty. The state, “insisting on its sovereign right of expulsion... smuggled its expelled stateless into the neighboring countries, with the result that the latter retaliated in kind... The consequences of this smuggling were petty wars between the police at the frontiers, which did not exactly contribute to good international relations, and an accumulation of jail sentences for the stateless, who, with the help of the police of one country, had passed ‘illegally’ into the territory of another.”²

Such “petty wars” broke out along frontiers across East Central Europe in 1938. On April 16, for example, Jewish residents of the Burgenland in Austria, on the border with Hungary (the very border to which the Austrian government is currently deploying 2,200 troops) were driven from their apartments, robbed of their possessions and identity papers, and dumped on a Danube island that belonged to Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak government deported them on the same day, to the no-man's land between the borders of Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Hungary. The refugees spent three days trapped between the bayonets of border guards from three states. Finally the Jewish community of Bratislava devised an impromptu solution. They rented a tugboat that was stationed on the Hungarian coast of the Danube, and took the 68 refugees on board. No country

would allow tugboat to land, however. The refugees remained on the tugboat for three months while Jewish organizations attempted to find a sanctuary.³

As No-Man's Lands, border checks, and internment camps reappear on Europe's frontiers, many are asking: how and why are countries that produced a lion's share of Europe's refugees in the twentieth century now so deficient in compassion? And how did the jubilant celebrations of a borderless Europe that accompanied the dismantling of the Iron Curtain and the expansion of the European Union morph so perversely into demands for barbed wire fences?

Today's scenes of desperate refugees (and human indifference) in East Central Europe certainly seem eerily familiar to anyone with a superficial knowledge of Europe's twentieth century history. The Austrian Jewish, stateless writer Joseph Roth aptly described what he called the "metaphysical affliction" of refugeeedom in 1937. "You're a transient and you're stuck, a refugee and a detainee; condemned to rootlessness and unable to budge."⁴ Or, in the words of one refugee stranded in Hungary, "Why is Hungary doing this anyway? We don't want to stay there. I want to go to the Netherlands, maybe Germany. Now I'm stuck here."⁵

Perhaps less familiar is a long and deep history of East European ambivalence toward refugees and toward mobility in general. This hostility has often been linked to an imagined association between nationally homogenous populations and national self-determination, and to Eastern Europe's own perceived status on the margins of Europe.

Since the end of the Cold War there has been a tendency to assume an inherent link between mobility and freedom in Europe. In 1989, nothing symbolized the failed promise of Socialism so profoundly as the barbed wire and watchtowers that imprisoned citizens in their own states. When the Berlin Wall came tumbling down on November 9, 1989, commentators insisted that East Berliners were not simply crossing from East to West: they were moving from captivity to freedom. As crowds of dazed East Germans wandered the streets of West Berlin for the first time in 28 years, Tom Brokaw declared, "Tonight in Berlin, it is 'Freedom night'...Thousands of East Berliners have been crossing into freedom all day long."⁶ The unification of Germany and the expansion of the European Union to include former East bloc countries in 2004 and 2007 were supposed to represent the realization of a basic principle that linked mobility and freedom, and that upheld freedom of movement as a "human right."

In reality, however, the past twenty-five years have been exceptional in European history. The much-vaunted freedom of mobility within Europe's Schengen zone has always been dependent on the defensive barriers circling Europe's edges. Even

during the Cold War, western countries (including the United States) were typically happy to uphold a right to asylum so long as few people could actually apply for it. As soon as more refugees began to arrive, western governments and popular opinion often turned against newcomers, questioning whether they were "bona fide" refugees or merely opportunistic "economic migrants."

In 1956, for example, 180,000 Hungarian refugees descended on Austria in the aftermath of the failed Hungarian uprising. At first, Austrians tended to welcome the refugees with open arms. As time wore on, however, and greater numbers remained in camps and settled into life in Austrian towns and cities, Hungarian refugees from Communism were saddled with negative stereotypes. They were specifically accused of being work-shy freeloaders and economic opportunists, who had overstayed their welcome and abused the generosity of their hosts.⁷

While the Austrian government did not deport Hungarians, Austrian diplomats and government officials made it clear from the outset that their hospitality had an expiration date. Hungarian exiles were strongly encouraged to move on to other countries for permanent resettlement. In a 1957 speech, Interior Minister Oskar Helmer proclaimed, "It is no longer acceptable that by virtue of its geographic position, Austria is condemned to bear the major burden of the refugee problem."⁸

In the aftermath of the Hungarian crisis, the number of individuals who fled across the border from Yugoslavia into Austria also multiplied, as did the number of refugees whose asylum claims were rejected. In 1957, around ¼ of Yugoslav applicants for asylum were issued deportation orders.⁹ The reasons for rejection were often arbitrary and inconsistent. One Yugoslav refugee was turned back on the grounds that "if all of the anti-Communists flee, who will remain behind in the country to fight the Communists?" Most asylum-seekers were simply turned away because Austrian authorities insisted that they were "economic" and not "political" migrants. The criteria for distinguishing between the two remained obscure, however. A refugee who "made a good impression and has worked hard," and another who had "worker's hands" were granted asylum. A less fortunate candidate was rejected on the grounds that he was a "heavy smoker who has not worked much."¹⁰ In reality, since the very moment that the "refugee" was defined in international law, the distinction between "refugees" and "economic migrants" has been malleable in practice, and often used to willfully exclude individuals considered "undesirable" from a political, cultural, or economic perspective.

Central Europe's history of ambivalence toward refugees dates to well before the Cold War or even the Second World War, however. It was born at the very moment that the region first began to produce refugees in massive numbers. The refugee crisis in Eastern Europe began with the Balkan wars of 1912-13,

but reached astronomic proportions with the collapse of the Austrian, Russian, and Ottoman Empires in 1917-18, which produced upward of three million refugees. The dissolution of Europe's great land empires set the stage for the subsequent refugee crises of the twentieth century, as Eastern Europe's new nation-states were founded on the fiction that national homogeneity was the essential precondition for a modern, democratic state. New restrictions on mobility in Western Europe (with the exception of France) and North America after World War I exacerbated the situation. The United States, which had absorbed several million migrants from Eastern and Southern Europe in the decades before the First World War, effectively shut its gates to immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe after World War I. In Arendt's words, what was "unprecedented" for refugees after 1918 was "not the loss of a home but the inability to find a new one."¹¹

But contrary to popular belief, it was not only Western restrictions on immigration that ended the era of mass mobility from and within East Central Europe: it was also the efforts of East European governments themselves to immobilize their own populations. In particular, the more Eastern Europe's governments sought to keep out or to deport national, religious, or linguistic minorities (culminating in the expulsion of millions of German-speakers after World War II), the more they restricted the movement of their "own" citizens, who were needed to replace the labor of expelled or murdered minorities. Ethnic cleansing and border control were flip sides of the same coin. The more homogenous Eastern Europe's populations became, the more the movement of "valuable" national citizens was restricted. Czechoslovakia actually banned all foreign travel, including trips to visit friends and family, in 1947- before the Communists seized power. Communists merely radicalized restrictions on mobility that were often first introduced by democratic governments.

There is another historical aspect to the current crisis. From the late nineteenth century onward, East European governments also justified restrictions on mobility in the name of "protecting" their citizens from exploitation abroad, fearing that East Europeans might become the "slaves" or "coolies" of the twentieth century. They often blamed mass migration itself on emigration agents- denounced as "traffickers" and "smugglers" - who supposedly fooled naïve migrants into leaving home and robbed and cheated them en route. There was little acknowledgement of the fact that escalating border controls and policing only increased the demand for the services of smugglers and agents.

Today, East Europeans enjoy unprecedented freedom to move within Europe's borders, at the expense of those outside them. They have finally achieved a longstanding (but precarious) dream: that of being (more or less) accepted as "white" Europeans, officially guaranteed the same rights and privileges as West

European migrants. In contemporary debates, East Europeans are often praised as the "good" immigrants- in rhetorical opposition to those from outside Europe (especially non-white or non-Christian migrants), whose capacity to assimilate is continuously questioned by opponents of immigration.¹² Former British Conservative Party chairman and MP Norman Tebbit declared in September 2013 that British citizens should not fear migrants from Eastern Europe. "We don't have much of a problem with people like the Poles, the Czechs, the Slovaks... they're not the problem," he insisted. "The bigger problem that is caused in our cities is caused by immigrants from the Third World who have got no intention of integrating here... They are people who left their country, came here and are trying to recreate their country in our country."¹³

Having won the hard-fought right to freedom of movement, East Europeans today appear to be most invested in erecting and maintaining an Iron Curtain around the continent's edges. Freedom of mobility, in the view of anti-refugee activists, should remain the exclusive privilege of Christian "Europeans." This may seem like a great historical irony, but it is consistent with a long local history that links popular sovereignty to national homogeneity, with a deep history of ambivalence toward migration itself, and with East Europeans' own precarious position within the European community. The fundamental tensions between a proclaimed "human right" to exit and the principle of national sovereignty may never be resolved, as states will continue to insist on the right to control their borders. And yet Europeans should be mindful of a past that has demonstrated that walls only create an illusion of security. Decades of experience have demonstrated that the creation of a No-Man's Land erodes the freedoms of those on all sides of the fences that surround it.

Tara Zahra is a Professor of East European History at the University of Chicago and the author of *The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World* (Norton, 2016).

Endnotes

1 Morris Troper, Report on Visit to Zbanszyn, November 13-14, 1938, Item: 509810, Folder Poland: Subject Matter, Refugees, 1933-44 New York Collection, Archive of the Joint Distribution Committee.

2 Ibid., 283-84.

3 Die Lage der Burgenländer Juden auf dem Schleppepdampfer auf der Donau bei Rojka in Ungarn, 1104, Reel 498, RG 11.001M94, HIAS- Paris, United States Holocaust Memorial, Museum, and Archive (USHMMA).

4 Joseph Roth, The Wandering Jews. Trans. Michael Hoffmann, New York: Norton, 2001 (originally published in 1927), 127.

5 Helene Bienvenu and Dan Bilfelsky, "Hungary Detains Migrants in Border Crackdown," New York Times, September 15, 2015.

6 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK1MwhEDjHg> (accessed March 29, 2015).

7 Brigitta Zierer, "Willkommene Ungarnflüchtlinge 1956?" in Gernot Heiss und Oliver Rathkolb, ed. Asylland wider Willen: Flüchtlinge in Österreich in europäischen Kontext seit 1914 (Vienna, 1995), 157-71; Peter Haslinger, "Zur Frage der ungarischen Flüchtlinge in Österreich, 1956-57," in Migration und ihre Auswirkungen: das Beispiel Ungarn 1918-55 ed. Gerhard Seewann (Munich, 1997), 147-62.

8 Speech of Oskar Helmer before the UNREF Tagung Genf, January 29, 1957, Carton 433, Pol-II, BmfAA, AdR, OestA.

9 "Nur 1000?," Fern der Heimat, Jg. 3, Nr. 10, October 31, 1957, 1-2.

10 Edda Engelke, Jeder Flüchtling, 92-93; Fern der Heimat, Nr. 4, Jg. 4, April-May 1958, 7.

11 Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, 293. For the narrative of increasing mobility, Nancy L. Green, "The Politics of Exit: Reversing the Immigration Paradigm," Journal of Modern History 77 (June 2005): 263-89; John Torpey, The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State (Cambridge, UK, 2000); Jane Caplan and John Torpey, eds., Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World (Princeton, 2001); Aristide Zolberg, "The Exit Revolution," in Nancy Green and François Weil, eds. Citizenship and Those Who Leave: The Politics of Emigration and Expatriation (Urbana, Ill, 2007), 33-60.

12 Adrian Lee, "How Poles Conquered Britain," The Express, February 2, 2013, 24-25.

13 "Tebbit: Immigrants are creating separate societies," The Daily Telegraph, September 23, 2013, 2.

CEERES Events 2015-2016

It has been another jam-packed year for CEERES filled with a wide variety of exciting events. We cannot hope to cover the full CEERES schedule in this Newsletter, but the following will highlight some of the conferences and other events from throughout the 2015-2016 academic year.

For a full list of CEERES events and activities please see our website (ceeres.uchicago.edu).

You can now also follow Russian and Eastern European events at the University of Chicago in greater detail at our newly launched blog, East from Chicago.

EAST FROM CHICAGO

By Robert Bird
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In March 2016 CEERES sent out the first three installments of a new blog that will regularly report on events relating to Russia and Eastern Europe at the University of Chicago. Published several times each term (five installments went live between March and June), East from Chicago brings highlights of the University's intellectual life to subscribers around the world, in reports written by faculty and graduate students. So far the subjects have been roundtables and international conferences, but the editorial board of East from Chicago (faculty members Robert Bird, Susan Gal, and Monika Nalepa, together with CEERES outreach coordinator Esther Peters) are open to other possible kinds of blog posts. There has been discussion, for instance, of inviting the author of the best BA thesis in Russian and East European Studies each year to write a post based on his or her research. It is hoped that East from Chicago will not only encourage the organization of more events and bring them to the notice of a broader audience, but also will bolster the University's reputation as the site of original, critical thinking about the region across a multitude of disciplines.

The blog can be found at:

<https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/eastfromchicago/>

You can also subscribe to the email edition of East from Chicago at the website.

Conferences

The Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies is a bilateral scholarly event that has taken place every three years since 1991 with the participation of North American and Macedonian scholars. The conference brings together both established and younger scholars to discuss issues of import to the study of Macedonia and the Macedonian language. Our multifaceted conference program included presentations by 31 scholars of Macedonia; a film screening of *MOTHERS/MAJKI* by Macedonian film director Milcho Manchevski, who was present to introduce the film and host discussion following the screening; a book table arranged by the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore; and a Gala dinner and awards ceremony, hosted by the United Macedonian Diaspora.

The conference, **In Empire's Long Shadow: Modern Constructions of Central Eurasia, 1900-1941**, was designed to showcase the work of innovative young scholars at the University of Chicago and bring them into dialogue with leading senior scholars in the field, while also opening up the particular issues of modern Central Eurasia for discussion by colleagues within the Committee for Central Eurasian Studies and from across the University. All twenty presentations examined aspects of Central Eurasian history and culture at a time when empires crumbled in the wake of World War I and revolutionary transformation rocked the entire territory, from Iran and the Turkish Republic to the Soviet republics of Central Asia and Transcaucasia and across Xinjiang, Mongolia, and Siberia. Adeb Khalid (History, Carleton College) and Nergis Erturk (Comparative Literature, Penn State) each gave keynote addresses.

The SOYUZ Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary forum for exchanging work based on field research in postsocialist countries, ranging from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. This year's symposium theme, **Politics of Difference: Migration, Nation, Postsocialist Left and Right?**, gained immediacy and poignancy from the migration and refugee crisis in Europe in Autumn 2015, and was chosen to address the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe and made a timely intervention on this pressing, current issue. However, presentations were not limited to Europe and addressed a host of themes about the broader postsocialist world. The two day meeting hosted eight panels and two special sessions: one on Roms in postsocialist Europe, the other a roundtable on the current trajectory of Left and Right politics in Hungary, Russia and Ukraine. Pamela Ballinger (U of Michigan) delivered the keynote address: "A Sea of Difference: Regime Collapse and Migrations from Albania to Italy, 1945-1992."

9th Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies

November 12-14, 2015

The University of Chicago
Franke Institute for the Humanities
1100 East 57th Street

November 13, 2015 - 7:00pm

Screening of *Mothers (Majki)*
with director Milcho Manchevski
Logan Arts Center
915 E. 60th St.

Full program and additional information:
<https://ceeres.uchicago.edu>

IN EMPIRE'S LONG SHADOW: MODERN CONSTRUCTIONS OF CENTRAL EURASIA, 1900-19

FEBRUARY 26-27 AT THE FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY: ADEEB KHALID AND NERGIS ERTÜRK

Politics of Difference: Migration, Nation, Postsocialist Left and Right

March 11 - 12, 2016 The University of Chicago • Franke Institute for the Humanities • 1100 East 57th Street



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

A Sea of Difference? Regime Collapse and Migrations from Albania to Italy, 1945-1992
Pamela Ballinger – Fred Cuny Chair in the History of Human Rights, University of Michigan

2016 ANNUAL SOYUZ SYMPOSIUM

Full program at soyuz2016.uchicago.edu

Sponsored by the Soyuz Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies, the Center for East European/Eurasian Studies, the Center for International Studies and the Lockwood Fund (Department of East Asian Studies). Free and open to the public. Persons with disabilities who may require assistance should contact CEERES before the event. *Some photos in images* photo by Bob Schiller, Associated Press

UChicago Honors Legacy of Czech New Wave Films

Pearls of the Czech New Wave

Friday April 29
The Logan Center
Screening Room
9:15 to 6:00 PM
Chicago, IL

SCREENING at 6pm
Pearls of the Deep
and the
Chicago Premier of
A Boring Afternoon

Reception
at 5pm

Free and
open to the
public.
Persons with
disabilities should
contact the Logan Center
before the event at
773-762-2187.

Q&A
with director
**Ivan
Passer**

Participants
Alice Lovejoy
University of Minnesota
Herbert Eagle
University of Michigan
Milos Stehlik
Faculty Hall - Media

ROUNDTABLE at 4pm
Moderator
Malynne Sternstein
University of Chicago

Event sponsored by CEERES, Film Studies Center, the Franko Institute for the Humanities, Central Europe Workshop, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

In the 1960s, the Czech New Wave film movement produced some captivating and avant-garde films that engage previously censored communist themes. Fifty years later, Czech New Wave has become emblematic of protest art in the Slavic world. UChicago will honor this legacy with “Pearls of the Czech New Wave”, an event featuring a screening of two Czech New Wave films, a roundtable of scholars to contextualize the films, and a discussion with Czech filmmaker Ivan Passer.

Conceived by Malynne Sternstein, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the event celebrates the 50th anniversary of the release of the Czech New Wave’s “manifesto” film, *Pearls of the Deep* (*Perličky na dne*). This five-part film was directed by key players in the Czech New Wave such as Jiří Menzel, Věra Chytilová, Jaromil Jireš, Jan Němec and Evald Schorm. The anthology pays homage to the legendary Czech writer, Bohumil Hrabal, by adapting several of his short stories and by borrowing its title from his groundbreaking 1963 collection.

“The importance of this celebration cannot be underestimated,” says Sternstein. “The Czech New Wave was one of the greatest artistic dissents of the 20th century. Its special humor, canniness, and iconoclasm, especially now requires celebration because of the 50 years that have transpired and the recent loss of its most cherished artists, Věra Chytilová, Jan Němec, Eva Krumbachová.”

Along with *Pearls of the Deep*, the event will feature the first English subtitled version from the Czech National Film Archive of Ivan Passer’s *A Boring Afternoon* (*Fádní odpoledne*), followed by a discussion with Passer. Though released separately, the film was originally part of the *Pearls of the Deep* anthology. The

Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, Bořek Lizec, will introduce Ivan Passer at the event. “Passer also happens to be one of my favorite Czech filmmakers,” says Sternstein, “and so I thought of what a coup it would be if we were able to have him make a campus visit to discuss his part in the Czech New Wave. He agreed. To quote Hrabal, ‘The impossible came true!’”

“Pearls of the Czech New Wave” is sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Film Studies Center, the Center for Eastern European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, and the Central Europe Workshop.

Previously published by the Humanities Division at:
<https://humanities.uchicago.edu/articles/2016/04/uchicago-honors-legacy-czech-new-wave-films>

Author Events



*The Physics of
Sorrow*
September 17,
2015

Bulgarian author Georgi Gospodinov read from his “quirky, compulsively readable” (New York Times) novel *The Physics of Sorrow*. A finalist for both the Strega Europeo and Gregor von Rezzori awards, *The Physics of Sorrow* reaffirms Georgi Gospodinov’s place as one of Europe’s most inventive and daring writers. Like the work of Dave Eggers, Tom McCarthy, and Dubravka Ugresic, *The Physics of Sorrow* draws you in with its unique structure, humanitarian concerns, and stunning storytelling. Georgi Gospodinov was born in 1968 and is one of the most translated contemporary Bulgarian writers. *The Physics of Sorrow* is his second novel. Co-sponsored by Open Letter Books, Seminary Co-op Bookstores, the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at The University of Chicago, the Consulate General of the Republic of Bulgaria Chicago. Angelina Ilieva (University of Chicago, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures) introduced the author and moderated the discussion.

The Less You Know, the Better You Sleep
May 26,
2016



David Satter discussed *The Less You Know, The Better You Sleep: Russia's Road to Terror and Dictatorship under Yeltsin and Putin*. He was joined in conversation by William Nickell (University of Chicago, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures). In December 2013, David Satter became the first American journalist to be expelled from Russia since the Cold War. The *Moscow Times* said it was not surprising he was expelled, "it was surprising it took so long." Satter is known in Russia for having written that the apartment bombings in 1999, which were blamed on Chechens and brought Putin to power, were actually carried out by the Russian FSB security police. In this book, Satter tells the story of the apartment bombings and how Boris Yeltsin presided over the criminalization of Russia, why Vladimir Putin was chosen as his successor, and how Putin has suppressed all opposition while retaining the appearance of a pluralist state. Satter's description of where Russia is and how it got there will be of vital interest to anyone concerned about the dangers facing the world today.



Zátopek
June 11,
2016

Czech-American writer, screenwriter, and playwright Jan Novák and Czech singer, songwriter, visual artist Jaromír 99 (Jaromír Švejdlík) discussed their new book, *Zátopek*. The eponymous hero of their comic is Emil Zátopek, who completely changed the training methods in track. In the 1952 Olympic games in Helsinki, Zátopek won the gold in the 5K, 10K, and marathon. Following the discussion Jaromír 99 performed several of his most popular songs, accompanied by Klára Moldová on the violin. The event was co-sponsored by the Seminary Coop, CEERES, and Prague Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International.

Outreach Events

Olympiada of Spoken Russian Takes Place at the University of Illinois

By Meredith Clason

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On March 19, 60 students from four high schools and community-based Russian programs traveled to Champaign, IL to participate in the second autonomous Illinois ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian. This event represents one of about 15 annual regional pre-college Russian language competitions across the United States under the auspices of the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). Each student prepares for individual conversations with three judges who assess and grade their knowledge and language proficiency in the following categories: everyday conversation, recitation of a poem and discussion surrounding a prepared text, and Russian civilization. In addition to demonstrating their language skills and cultural proficiency, the Olympiada provided participants the opportunity to network with students and teachers of Russian from other schools, to watch a Russian film (*Kavkazskiy Plennik*), and to hear a short presentation by David Cooper, Director of the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center (REEEC) and Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois.

This year's Olympiada was again a collaborative effort of the University of Chicago Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES) and the University of Illinois Russian, East European and Eurasian Center (REEEC).

It was a joy to host this group of students; they competed bravely, performed brilliantly, and were professional and courteous. The students represented three high schools: Pritzker College Prep, Noble Street College Pre, and Glenbrook North High School (teacher: Svetlana Borisova), and a community-based school, By the Onion Sea.

UChicago International Education Conference 2016



The conference, *Sensing Place, Sharing Stories: Global Literacy in the 21st Century Classroom*, featured a keynote by Don Belt, Professor of Journalism at the University of Richmond and former Senior Editor, National Geographic magazine. The presentation was a call to global awareness, including a summary of his own “journey” via National Geographic to a greater appreciate of the world we share, illustrated with photographs from past assignments, and culminating with an introduction to the Paul Salopek’s *Out of Eden Walk* project (<http://learn.outofedenwalk.com/>).



The afternoon featured two sessions. The first of which was lead by two Illinois educators, who shared their experiences using international content in their classrooms, as well as potential resources and tools for other educators. Wendy Kotrba (Lincoln Hall Middle School) presented “Ancient Egypt Projects and How to Observe Artifacts.” Emily Forrest-Mattfield (Bret Harte Elementary School) presented “Exploring the World Through Art Making.” The final session of the day was led by Anne Flannery (Oriental Institute) who presented “Archives and Digital Repositories: Old Methods and New Developments.” Her presentation provided educators with a variety of resources and expanded on the value of preserving our stories.



Summer Teacher Insitute 2016
Global Issues in Local Contexts:
Turning International Journalism into Teachable Lessons

This two-day professional development workshop brought together award-winning journalists supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (<http://pulitzercenter.org/>) and presented educators with digital resources created by the Pulitzer Center and UChicago to address the incorporation of current global issues in the classroom. The program included a combination of presentations and hands-on curriculum building activities. The presentations covered a wide variety of issues: Conflict and international migration. Consumption and waste. Environmental degradation and conservation. Journalists and educators discussed how these issues affect our lives, no matter where we live. And also reflected on how these issues manifest differently around the world. The conference also touched up the following questions: How do global issues connect to local contexts? How are contemporary challenges handled in different places around the world? And how can we present these important topics to students in ways that will both engage them and connect them to the larger world? Participants left with tools to incorporate new content into their classes, as well as connections to journalists working on these issues.





Library News

June Farris

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

New Slavic and East European and Eurasian Library Guide
 page: WHAT'S NEW?

<http://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/c.php?g=297241&p=3018690#s-lg-box-9370108>

Categories of newly received material include:

- Notable Acquisitions
- New Films & Documentaries
- New Serial Titles
- New Reference Titles
- New Databases and other electronic resources

Docuseek (live streaming of thousands of documentaries on a wide variety of topics and countries)

<http://docuseek2.com.proxy.uchicago.edu/cart/index>

Law in Eastern Europe (new Hein Online collection)

<http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=leeb>

NOTE THAT THE CONTENTS OF "WHAT'S NEW?" IS UPDATED FREQUENTLY

New Exhibit in the Second Floor Reading Room,
 Regenstein Library

On the 100th Anniversary of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*
 [April-July 2016]



"When Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from disturbing dreams, he found himself transformed..." Into what sort of creature was Gregor transformed? Why? How did his family and the world react to this transformation? Presented are a few of the artistic visualizations that have appeared in the 100 years since this work was first published.

* * *

Art Work in the Second Floor Reading Room,
 Regenstein Library



Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, who was to become the first President of the new country of Czechoslovakia (1918-1935), presented a series of 13 lectures at the University of Chicago in June-July 1902, and again in 1907. In 1970 his portrait was presented to the University of Chicago and until 2015, it was located in a reception room of the Classics building. It has recently been relocated to Regenstein Library and hangs in an alcove of the 2nd floor Reading Room, at the entrance to the reading room elevators.

Faculty News

Lenore Grenoble (Linguistics)

Upcoming Workshop

The South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC):
Philology meets Linguistics
September 22-24, 2016
Paris: University of Chicago Center, 6 Rue Thomas Mann

This workshop will bring together linguists working on different aspects of the scientific study of language and experts in Georgian and South Caucasian (Kartvelian) languages. Its primary goal is to promote a dialogue between scholars from different approaches, established scholars, as well as graduate students and young scholars at the beginning of their career. The timing of this workshop coincides with the Shota Rustaveli year, commemorating the greatest poet and thinker known as the Homer of the Caucasus.

Olga Solovieva (Comparative Literature)

Prof. Solovieva, in conjunction with the Extended Day Program at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, initiated a Russian afterschool program for heritage speakers. Maria Yakubovich, adjunct Russian lecturer at the University of Chicago, also teaches in this program. All heritage speakers and students at the Lab School who have been exposed to Russian language for a period of time are invited to participate.

Lectures

“On Dostoevsky and Holbein”

The Franke Institute for the Humanities, April 2016

“Dostoevsky, Doktor Faustus, Bakhtin: A Cycle of Influence”
Conference: Found in Translation: Russia and the West in Dialogue, April 2016

“War Photography and Avant-garde Performance in Kurosawa Akira’s adaptation of Gorky’s *The Lower Depths* (1957)”
UC Irvine, November 2015

Courses

CompLit 21705/31705; REES; German: The Novel-Essay and its Past: From Artsybashev’s *Sanin* to Musil’s *Man Without Qualities* (Spring 2016)

CompLit 21704; REES 29810: Intercultural Adaptation: Kurosawa and his Russian Sources (Fall 2015)

Bill Darden (Slavic, Emeritus)

Publications

Studies in Phonological Theory and Historical Linguistics
(Slavica 2016)

This book provides some of the fruits of a career teaching Slavic linguistics and phonological theory and includes several never published articles including:

- Balto-Slavic Factitive-Iteratives
- A History of the East Slavic Imperfect
- The Fronting of Vowels after Palatals
- On the Change of *l* to *w* in Ukrainian and Belarusian
- A Retrospective on Phonology in Chicago 1965–2004

The collection also includes two that were previously published as working papers:

On the History and Function of Ablaut from Balto-Slavic to the Russian verb

Comments on Ivanov’s *Istoričeskaja grammatika russkogo jazyka*

Victor Friedman (Linguistics and Slavic, Emeritus)

Book Publications

Romani Worlds: Media, Academia, and Policy. ed. w/ Eben Friedman Cluj-Napoca: Editura Institutului pentru Studiarea Problemelor Minorităților Naționale. 2015. 368 pp.

VIII Makedonsko-Severnoamerikanska Konferencija za makedonistika, ed. w/ Marjan Markovikj and Slavica Veleva. Skopje: University of Skopje. 2015.

Selected Article Publications

- A Few of Eric P. Hamp’s Many Contributions to the Study of “South Slavic and Its Neighbors — Distant Past and Present”, in *Albanian Historic Syllabics* by Eric P. Hamp, ed. by Brian D. Joseph (The Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series in South Slavic and Balkan Linguistics, No. 9), 19-28. Oxford, MI: SEESA. 2015.
- Sometimes a Cigar Is Just a Cigar: Bulgarian and Macedonian QUIPs and Their Relatives. *U prostou lingvističke slavistike/ Inside the Space of Slavic Linguistics*, ed. by Ljudmila Popović, Dojčil Vojvodić, Motoki Nomachi, 768-776. Belgrade: University of Belgrade.
- On the History of Standard Albanian in the United States/Historia e Shqipërisë standarde në Shtetet e Bashkuara, *Studime albanistike në Amerikë Albanian Studies in America*, ed. by Rexhep Ismajli, 37-52. Prishtina: ASHAK. 2016.
- Macedonians. *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*, ed. by John Stone, Rutledge Dennis, Polly Rizova and Anthony D. Smith. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

CEERES Associate News

Mariya Bobina (University of Iowa)

Publications

Bobina, M. & Sabotinova, D., "Bulgarian Management in a Cross-Cultural Space", *Journal of East European Management Studies* (2016)

Conference Presentation

Bobina, M. & Sabotinova, D. "Cross-cultural comparisons of Bulgarian Management", 2016 Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Anaheim CA, August 5-9, 2016

Karl Rahder (Independent Scholar and Journalist)

Publications

"A Close Call in the Caucasus," *The National Interest*, <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/close-call-the-caucasus-15877>

Student and Alumni News

Andrew Graan (PhD, Anthropology 2010)

Publications

"The Nation Brand Regime: Nation Branding and the Semiotic Regimentation of Public Communication in Contemporary Macedonia." [2016] *Signs and Society* 4 (S1): S70-S105.

"Chronotopes of the Political: News Media, Public Discourse, Mass Action in Postconflict Macedonia." [2015] In *Culture, Catastrophe and Rhetoric: The Texture of Political Action*, edited by Robert Harriman and Ralph Cintron. Pp. 47-67. New York: Berghahn Books.

Charles Steinwedel (MA, 1986)

Publications

Threads of Empire: Loyalty and Tsarist Authority in Bashkiria, 1552-1917 (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016).

The book was awarded an ASEES First Book Subvention in November 2015.

Kaitlyn Tucker (PhD Candidate, Slavic)

Grants

Advanced Research Fellowship from the American Councils Title VIII Research Scholar Program in order to do research in this summer in Croatia and Serbia.

ASEES Dissertation Research Grant to do research this December in Slovenia for 6 weeks.

Congratulations to our recent CEERES PhDs!

Elizabeth Fagan (Anthropology) – Narratives in the Landscape: Political Discourses of Authority and Identity in the Armenian Highland, ca. 200 B.C.E – 200 C.E.

Leah Goldman (History) – Art of Intransigence: Soviet Composers and Art Music Censorship, 1945-1957

Kelda Jamison (Anthropology) – Making Kurdish Public(s): Language Politics and Practice in Turkey

Zdenko Mandusic (Slavic Languages and Literatures and CMS) - Soviet Film Experience and Visual Poetics After Stalin

Louisa McClintock (Sociology) – Projects of punishment in Postwar Poland: War Criminals, Collaborators, Traitors, and the (Re)Construction of the Nation

Boriana Nikolova (Political Science) – Poor, Poorer, Bulgarian: Making Sense of Poverty and Inequality after the End of Communism

Antje Postema (Slavic Languages and Literatures) - Claimed Experience: Figuring Trauma, Narrating Memory in Wartime and Postwar Bosnian Fiction and Film

Flora Roberts (History) – Old Elites Under Communism: Soviet Rule in Leninibod

Tracey Rosen (Anthropology) – How "Made in China" is Made in Greece: Chinese Capitalism at the Gateway to Europe

Congratulations to our FLAS Fellows!

2015-16 Academic Year FLAS Fellows

Jeffrey Geiger (Linguistics), Polish

Joseph Hermiz (CMES), Turkish

Menachem Kranz (Divinity), Yiddish

Patrick Lewis (Anthropology), Turkish

Moira O'Shea (Sociology), Russian

Rachel Renz (Divinity), Yiddish

Jonah Simpson (Anthropology), Kazakh

Thalea Stokes (Music), Russian

Benjamin Van Zee (History), Polish

2016-17 Academic Year FLAS Fellows

Firas Ibrahim AlKhateeb (CMES), Turkish

Christy Brandly (Political Science), Russian

Derek Buyan (Divinity), Turkish

Mariel Colbert (CMES), Turkish

Jeffrey Geiger (Linguistics), Polish

Joseph Hermiz (NELC), Turkish

Tzvi Schoenberg (Divinity), Yiddish

Alexander Shams (Anthropology), Turkish

Benjamin Van Zee (History), Polish

2016 Summer FLAS Fellows

Christy Brandly (Political Science) Russian

Ksenia Ershova (Linguistics) Georgian

Jeffrey Geiger (Linguistics) Polish

Roy Kimmey (History) Hungarian

Patrick Lewis (Anthropology) Kurdish

Jonah Simpson (Anthropology) Russian

Benjamin Van Zee (History) Polish

Congratulations to our students who received research and dissertation grants this year!

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Roy Kimmey (History)

Moira O'Shea (Sociology)

Eric Phillips (History)

David Reher (Romance Languages and Literatures)

American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) Junior Research Fellowship

Natalja Czarnecki (Anthropology)

Department of Anthropology Mark Hanna Watkins Post-Field Fellowship

Natalja Czarnecki (Anthropology)

Emma Hite (Anthropology)

Fuerstenberg Fellowships

Kirsten Collins (Divinity)

Menachem Mendel Kranz (Divinity)

Tzvi Schoenberg (Divinity)

Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship

Claire Roosien (NELC)

Humanities Without Walls Predissertation Fellowship

Ilana Miller (History)

Provost Dissertation Fellowship

Alison Davis (Divinity)

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Erin Franklin (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Cheryl Stephenson (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Ignacio Martin Baro Human Rights Essay Prize

Grace Bickers (CMES)

New Faces Around Campus

Mark Baugher (Slavic)

Mark Baugher will join the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures as a lecturer in Russian language in the 2016-2017 academic year. He received his PhD in Russian and Second Language Acquisition in 2012 from Bryn Mawr University.

James A. Johnson (Anthropology)

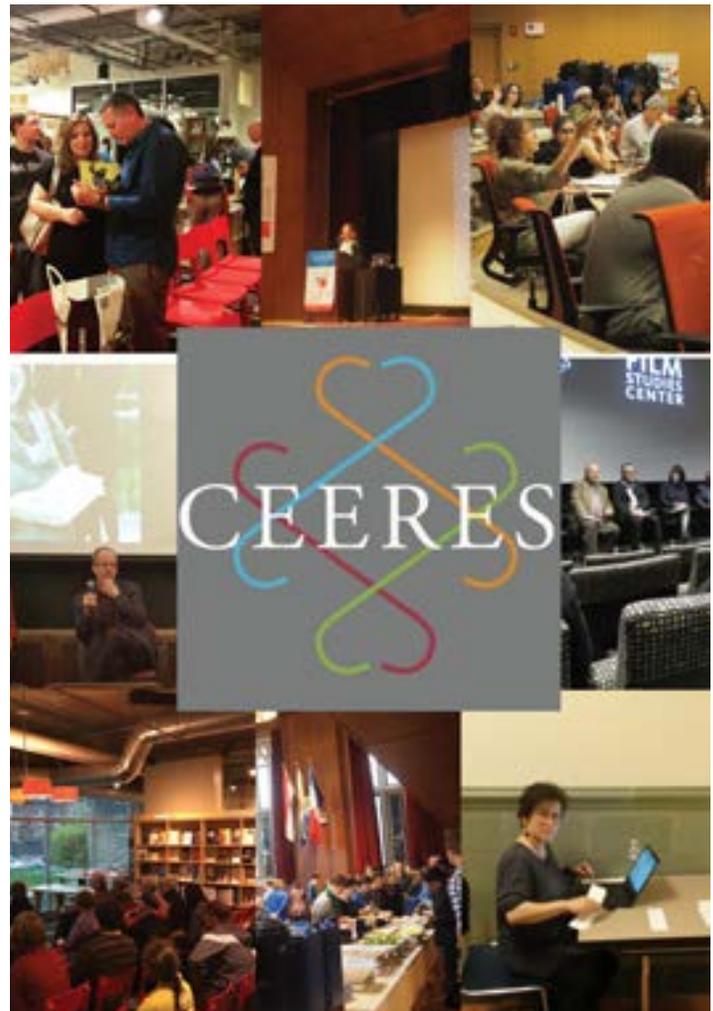
James A. Johnson joined the Department of Anthropology as a lecturer. He received his PhD in Anthropology in 2014 from the University of Pittsburgh.

James Osborne (NELC)

James Osborne joined the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations as an Assistant Professor. He is an archaeologist who works in the eastern Mediterranean and ancient Near East during the Early Bronze and Iron Ages. He focuses especially on Anatolia, a region that is today within the Republic of Turkey, during the late second and early first millennium BCE. After receiving his PhD from Harvard University in 2011, James Osborne was a postdoctoral scholar at SUNY Buffalo's Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology (IEMA), a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Johns Hopkins University, and a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University's Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World.

Konstantin Sonin (Harris School of Public Policy)

Konstantin Sonin join the Harris School of Public Policy as the John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor. He is a prominent Russian scholar whose research interests include development economics, economic theory and political economy. Sonin served as a professor and vice rector at the prestigious Higher School of Economics in Moscow until December 2014. In addition to his academic work, Sonin writes a blog on Russian political and economic issues and a fortnightly column for the Russian-language newspaper Vedomosti, and contributed to all major Russian media. In 2012, he was an economic advisor to the presidential campaign of Mikhail Prokhorov.



New Faces at CEERES

Esther Peters

Esther Peters joined CEERES as the Outreach and Campus Program Coordinator. She received her PhD in Slavic from the University of Chicago in 2014. She is also a lecturer in the Slavic Department. In 2016, she taught *Writing Humans and Animals in Eastern Europe* (Winter) and *Narratives of Suspense* (Spring). In the upcoming academic year she will be teaching *First Year Czech*.

Grace Bickers

Grace Bickers has joined CEERES as a student assistant. Grace is currently a MA candidate at the University of Chicago's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, with her current research focusing on Shii legal history and the role and status of women in Safavid Iran. She holds a B.A. in Human Rights from Columbia University. In her free time, Grace enjoys hanging out by the lake and exploring Chicago's music scene.

The Center for East European and Russian Eurasian Studies
at the University of Chicago
1155 East 60th Street
Room 306
Chicago, IL 60637

Congratulations to CEERES Director Susan Gal!

Susan Gal, Mae and Sidney G. Metzl Distinguished Service Professor and Director of CEERES, was honored this year by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. She was chosen by the Academy's Presidential Committee for Hungarian Science Abroad as the 2016 recipient of the Arany János Award for Lifetime Achievement in Scholarship. This is the first time this prize has been awarded to an American scholar.

The official announcement declared: "Susan Gal (Gál Zsuzsa), professor of anthropology and linguistics at the University of Chicago was selected for her outstanding research in the areas of linguistic nationalism, language and gender as well as for her research regarding the rhetorical and symbolic aspects of political transformation in contemporary Eastern-Central Europe and the post socialist area. She was also recognized for her numerous publications relating to Hungary, which contributed to the authentic presentation of Hungarian linguistic and social issues on the international stage. The winner extended her gratitude for the prestigious award through a video message."

The President of the Academy of Sciences presented the award at the 187th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Budapest on May 2.