A Letter from the Director

Spring always brings excitement to CEERES. In addition to our usual busy schedule of lectures, performances, workshops, conferences, and trainings, as well as preparing and submitting our proposal for another four-year term as a Title VI National Resource Center, we also debuted a new design of our website. We encourage you to visit this new enhancement to our mission to encourage top-quality scholarship and community outreach on our world regions.

Space permits me to highlight only a few of the events we organized/co-sponsored these past two quarters. In line with our commitment to collaborate with other National Resource Centers, we began our winter term with an interdisciplinary workshop, Violence, Trauma and Displacement in Eurasia and the Middle East, held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (29-30 January 2010). Co-sponsored with Chicago’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and UIUC’s Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center and their Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, the workshop gathered faculty and graduate students from across the social sciences to share and discuss recent research on this important topic.

Winter also featured our major international conference, New Histories of Modern Art: The East European Avant-Gardes (4-6 February 2010). With the specific intention of calling into question current art historical dogmas and contributing to new understandings of modern art, the conference included presentations by leading lights and rising stars of the art history world from Europe and North America. The result was a combination of truly stimulating papers and lively discussion that can be viewed and heard at our online archive of the conference. To reach the online archive, please visit: ceeres.uchicago.edu/media.

We were also pleased to support the 2010 Illinois-Indiana Olympiada of Spoken Russian (24 April 2010) along with our fellow NRCs from Indiana University and the University of Illinois. This event enabled students from several area public high schools to showcase their Russian language skills and to enjoy a day of Russian food, music, and culture.

Finally support from the American Council of Learned Societies allowed us to organize a follow-up workshop to our 2008 conference on the former Yugoslavia. Titled Hopeful Spaces of Critique: Post-Yugoslav Anthropology in the Coming Decade (30 April 2010), this workshop included participants from the original event as well as newcomers in a stimulating discussion of the issues and problematics guiding anthropological inquiry into this region.

Although our academic year is winding down, we are nevertheless anticipating several upcoming events. In late June, CEERES will once again co-sponsor the University of Chicago’s annual Summer Teacher Institute. This year’s topic is Water: An Interdisciplinary Examination of the World’s Most Essential Resource. In autumn, we will co-sponsor the Fifth Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society (29-31 October 2010). Beginning in October we will also be participating in a yearlong series of cultural and artistic events entitled The Soviet Experience, organized by University of Chicago Presents in conjunction with several other Chicago cultural institutions.

As always, we appreciate your support, feedback and ideas and we hope to see you at our future events.

~Victor A. Friedman, CEERES Director and the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Balkan Linguistics
CEERES Online Presence Grows: Conference Proceedings Available Through Digital Archive

In an effort to make our programming available to a wider audience, CEERES has been working with the University of Chicago’s Humanities Division to record and archive the proceedings of our major academic events. We are thus very pleased to announce the creation of two new websites:

-- NEW HISTORIES OF MODERN ART: THE EAST EUROPEAN AVANT-GARDES

-- 7TH MACEDONIAN-NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MACEDONIAN STUDIES

These event specific websites house recordings of talks given at these scholarly events with the hope that they will be of interest and inspiration to others. Of particular note are the several screen recordings included on these sites. The screen recordings combine the audio of a talk with a capture of the presenter’s PowerPoint presentations. This way visitors can fully enjoy a speaker’s reference to accompanying visual and textual materials.

In addition, our website’s “Media page” features many other audio, video, and screen recordings from other CEERES sponsored events held over the past several years. Explore for yourself at: ceeres.uchicago.edu/media

BUREAUCRATICS in Harper Commons

BUREAUCRATICS, an exhibition by Dutch photographer Jan Banning, is an exercise in visual ethnography. Consisting of 50 photographs, the exhibition captures glimpses into the everyday existence of low-level bureaucrats from around the world. Several years in the making, Banning visited eight different countries, photographing a variety of civil servants and other officials, always in their offices and behind their desks. (The photographs include officials from Bolivia, China, France, India, Liberia, Russia, USA, and Yemen). The result is a rich, fascinating comparative study of bureaucratic authority.

Brian Ashby of the South Asia Language and Area Center led the initiative to bring Banning’s photographs to the University’s remodeled study space, Harper Commons. A truly international art project, CEERES teamed up with the other UofC area centers to help sponsor this thoughtful and compelling exploration of state power. Additional support was provided by the UofC Arts Council, the College, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and the France Chicago Center.

Entry to the exhibit is free and open to the public. Visiting hours are 7am-11pm, Saturday-Thursday, and 7am-6pm, Friday. The show continues through June 11.
Conceptual Histories of the Self in the Christian East

The decision to dispatch Constantine the Philosopher and Methodius to the Slavic lands to translate liturgical texts and train local priests, prompted by the request of Rastislav of Moravia, was a rather unusual event in the history of Byzantine Church, which, in contrast to its Western counterpart, rarely undertook missionary work. Yet, ex post facto, this event of 862 CE stands as an emblem for one of Byzantium’s enduring achievements. The original mission resulted in the creation of a new linguistic medium, now referred to as Old Church Slavic (henceforth OCS), which was to remain the language of culture—an approximate analogue of Latin in the West—until the modern period. Although (presumably) based on the spoken dialect of the original recipients of Constantine’s and Methodius’s teaching, OCS was borrowed, along with the Christian faith, by other Slavic peoples.

Over the next several centuries, many texts were translated from Greek into OCS, some of them specimens of the high intellectual culture of Byzantium (such as Gregory of Nazianzus’s orations, the writings of Dionysius of Areopagus, Hamartolos’s Chronicle). As a result, the language and style of translations, as well as of texts originally written in OCS, closely mirrored Byzantine Greek in word-formation, syntax, and rhetoric. Indeed, several modern literary languages developed under the influence of OCS and were thereby vicariously impacted by Greek. Nevertheless, this remarkable continuity linking the cultures of Greek antiquity, Byzantium, and (among other modern heirs) Russia cannot be directly compared with the reception of Classics in the West.

First, in contrast to the Byzantines, who retained Homer and other pre-Christian authors as part of the school curriculum, the Slavs almost entirely eschewed “pagan” texts. As a result, whatever cultural or discursive elements we now recognize as originating in the classical past could only survive if they were embedded in texts that professed to ignore or belittle this past (or could be viewed as such by their Slavic readers). Second, in a notable contrast with Latin, OCS was the language of ritual and literary culture, but close enough to the vernacular so as not to require lengthy formal training. This meant that the Kulturgut borrowed from Byzantium could spread across different social strata more easily than in the West where knowledge of Latin remained restricted to an educated minority.

It is this peculiar dynamic of cultural import that invites questions I seek to address in my project on the comparative history of concepts in the Christian East: What kind of reception could Greek texts have among Slavic-speaking clerics who did not have the philosophical, theological, or linguistic training necessary to understand, and often even to translate them adequately? (The paradox is poignantly revealed in the fact that, in spite of numerous failures of translation, resulting texts enjoyed a great popularity – as reflected, first and foremost, by the number of surviving manuscripts.) How can we diagnose which cultural notions found their way into the active “vocabulary” of Eastern Slavs and which represented the inscrutable residue of all-too-technical concepts that were – literally or figuratively – lost in translation? Did the permeability of different linguistic registers indeed allow for a more thoroughgoing influence of borrowed cultural notions on the worldview of the lay population?

I would like to begin a summary of my project with an example of conceptual borrowing from Greek to OCS that showcases the need for combining lexicographic work with the study of Weltanschauung understood – in the tradition of German historicism – as a product of cultural evolution.1 Consider the notion of ‘conscience’ (Modern Russian sovest’), which came to occupy a central position in the moral lexicon of the Eastern Slavs.2 The word sovest’ is often claimed to be a calque of the Greek term suneidesis (e.g. Prokhorov 1973), which itself has pre-Christian roots (Zucker 1928, Snell 1930, Cancrini 1970). Based on the analysis of early OCS usage, I have argued that it is in fact a semantic loan: the Slavic word sovest’ most likely preexisted the impact of Greek (Maslov 2009: 209-10), but its semantics was defined by its use as a translation of Greek suneidesis. The difference between these two borrowing scenarios is not a mere philological nuance: it suggests that words that were newly coined to be pristine containers of a borrowed meaning were less effective conduits of cultural import than were preexistent words whose own previous meanings were insidiously supplanted by the meaning of the borrowed concept.

I am currently completing preparatory lexicographic work related to the history of another Eastern Christian ethical term, oikeiōsis ‘making one’s own’, especially common in the phrase oikeiōsis pros theon ‘making God one’s own’. In contrast to suneidesis/sovest’, this concept has no heirs in modern languages, which makes it all the more precious testimony to how the self was conceptualized in the Medieval Christian East. As I argue in Maslov (2005, Forthc.), in Greek late antique sources oikeiōsis consistently projects a distinctive organicist view of the individual, whose ethical well-being (as well as future salvation) can only be guaranteed by an effect of fusion with the divine element. As such, oikeiōsis, a term originating in Stoic philosophy, can be contrasted with the Platonic ideal of homoiōsis ‘assimilation’ of the divine, whereby the individual is expected to imitate divine virtues. While both terms had an important Nachleben in Byzantine Christianity, the conceptual structure of oikeiōsis pros theon can be seen as its distinctive property. I propose that it is related to such an important practice of self-formation as penance, which in the Christian East was achieved through the mediating figure of a “spiritual father,” who, by virtue of his own greater oikeiōsis with the divine, was able to effect a similar fusion for his spiritual children.
A related project pertains to the reception of the phrase oikeiōsis pros theon among the Eastern Slavs, where it is most commonly rendered as prisvoenie k Bogu. As a preliminary study has shown, it would be a mistake to see prisvoenie as a new word calqued from Greek oikeiōsis, since it is possible to identify its primary meaning ‘extended kinship, kinship by marriage.’ As in the case of suneidesis/sovest’, the cultural import from Byzantium to the Eastern Slavs is revealed as a process of the adaptation of a pre-existing concept to a new meaning rather than as the wholesale borrowing of alien Kulturgut.

Another case study involves the evolution of the notion of Christian ‘debts’ into the modern concept of ‘duty’, which in both Modern Greek and Modern Russian is expressed by the same word as ‘debt’ (Gr. ἱκρεός, Russ. долг). In Maslov (2009), I draw on the work of Hans Blumenberg (1960) to present an extended argument that debt/duty is a conceptual metaphor that survives in modern languages, whereby old connotations of a Christian’s responsibilities remain relevant for newly emergent concepts such as ‘civil duty’.

At the center of all these investigations is the development of a distinctive Eastern Christian subjectivity, markedly different from the concepts of the self that evolved in the cultural spheres of Catholicism and Protestantism (cf. Kharkhordin 1999, Zhivov 2009). I believe that the study of practices and conceptualizations of the self, which properly belong to history of culture, has a necessary philological correlate: it is the inquiry into the metamorphoses of fundamental concepts that had a complex prehistory in Greek philosophy and then were adapted to the native ethical views of the Eastern Slavs.

Notes

1The greatest impetus for the study of conceptual history in the last decades has issued from the work of Reinhart Koselleck, who, in his later period, put a strong emphasis on language and language use (Koselleck 2002, 2003). It is this philological approach to the history of concepts, embraced by a younger generation of scholars (Bödeker 2002, Fritz 2006), that I seek to develop in my own work.

2Arguably, the significance of the concept of sovest’ for articulating an ethical attitude is greater in modern Russian than that of its equivalent in modern English. As much is suggested by its spread in dialectal speech (Kolesov 2004: 662-75) and its tendency to impinge upon the domain of the concept of styd ‘shame’; cf. bessovest’niy ‘lacking conscience’, replacing besstyzh’i ‘lacking shame’, where English would demand shameless.

Cited references


Profile

Boris Maslov is an assistant professor in comparative literature at the University of Chicago. His research centers on Archaic Greek poetry, imperial/Byzantine Greek and premodern Russian literatures, and Soviet modernist prose. He is currently working on a book project on the genealogy of the ode and a series of studies on the afterlife of Greek conceptual vocabulary in Byzantium and Old Rus’. Boris Maslov’s broader research and teaching interests include linguistic and sociological approaches to poetics, comparative conceptual history, philology of cultural import, and narrative theory. (Ph.D., UC - Berkeley)
Event Highlights

“Violence, Trauma and Displacement in Eurasia and the Middle East”

A joint University of Chicago and University of Illinois workshop held at the University of Illinois on January 29-30, this interdisciplinary gathering offered faculty and graduate students from both universities (and beyond) an opportunity to share and discuss new work.

“New Histories of Modern Art: The East European Avant-Gardes”

Held from February 4-6, this conference included leading scholars and rising stars from the field of art history to engage in a collective reconceptualization of modern art from the perspective of avant-garde and neo-avant-garde art in Eastern Europe.

“A Poet In Transition”

On February 25, bilingual poet Joanna Kurowska (Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures) read her Polish and English poems and spoke about the challenges of writing poetry in a second language. Listen to the reading on the CEERES media archive: ceeres.uchicago.edu/media.

The Pan-CEERES Study Break

Once again, CEERES worked together with a stellar array of student organizations (viz., Armenian Students Association, Central Asian Studies Society, European Students Association, Polish-American Students Association, Romanian Students Association, and Anthropology Students Association) to present this night (April 14) of food and music from our world regions. While the highlight of the night was surely the performance by the University’s Russian Choir, GOLOSA, the study break also featured a selection of music videos curated by our student organizers. Watch the videos for yourself at: www.youtube.com/user/CEERESSStudyBreak.

Coffee Futures and “Reading the Residues: Fortune Telling Cafés in Istanbul”

On April 15th, filmmaker/anthropologist Zeynep Dervim Gürsel and sociologist Zeynep K. Korkman visted the UofC for a joint film screening and lecture. Both presentations cleverly used coffee fortune-telling as a lens on Turkish society and Turkey’s complex relationship to the EU. A splendid pairing, the combination represented creative ethnography at its finest!

Zolotoi Plyos - A Concert of Russian Folk Music

The talented trio Zolotoi Plyos performed authentic Russian folk music at International House on April 20th. The group performs both a capella and with instrumental accompaniment on over 20 authentic folk instruments!

Hopeful Spaces of Critique: Post-Yugoslav Anthropology in the Coming Decade

Building on the CEERES/ACLS-sponsored conference Critical Spaces of Hope: Locating Postsocialism and the Future in post-Yugoslav Anthropology which took place at the University of Chicago in October of 2008, this workshop (April 30) collected together a young crop of anthropologists working in the Western Balkans to discuss the emergent issues and problematics guiding research in ex-Yugoslavia.
CEERES Outreach Library New Additions

The CEERES Outreach Library enables educators from the Chicago area to borrow books, films, and other learning materials concerned with Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. These items can be incorporated within classroom activities or used in curricular development. In particular, our collection includes materials that are targeted to school-aged children and that address current events.

Recent library additions include:
• Explore Eastern Europe in Chicago! Thanks to a generous donation by Arcadia Publishing, CEERES now holds three volumes from the “Images of America” series that examine the immigrant experience through historical photographs: The Czechs of Chicagoland, Bosnian Americans in Chicagoland, and Greeks in Chicago. These books provide an excellent educational bridge that connect Chicago’s history and built environment to other parts of the world.
• Coffee Futures, a clever and delightful documentary film that examines Turkey’s long-standing and complex relationship to the European Union via the Turkish practice of coffee fortune-telling.
• Romani Tales. This DVD-ROM, produced by the University of Manchester’s Romani Project, aims to promote awareness of Romani culture and its diversitry across the communities of Roms, Gypsies and Travellers in the UK and across Europe.
• Musical Treasures of the Bukharian Jewish Community. A seven CD box set that overviews of the religious and folk music of the Bukharian Jewish Community, once based in Central Asia.

A full catalog of our holdings, as well as guidelines for borrowing, can be found at: http://ceeres.uchicago.edu/k12/lib/index.htm.

RECENT TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Ukrainian Art, Culture and History

Chicago has long been known as the “city of neighborhoods,” a consequence of the diverse ethnic groups that have made their home within the city’s borders. Alongside the panoply of languages and cuisines that one can encounter on Chicago’s streets, the city also includes a wide array of museums and cultural institutions that are dedicated to celebrating and preserving the histories of Chicago’s ethnic communities. These institutions are not only wonderful community resources, but also exceptional educational tools for area schools and students.

To make just this point, CEERES, the Center for International Studies and the Chicago Cultural Alliance worked together with Chicago’s Ukrainian National Museum and the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art to prepare a day long teacher workshop. The workshop took place on January 13, 2010 in Chicago’s Ukrainian Village neighborhood, and over 50 teachers and administrators from Chicago Public Schools’ International Baccalaureate program were in attendance.

The workshop featured learning units on Ukrainian art, history, and culture, but also used these units to illustrate how educators can take advantage of Chicago’s local cultural institutions to enhance internationally focused curriculum in the classroom. Sessions included curricular development that places Ukraine within a “World Cultures” paradigm, Ukrainian inspired arts-and-crafts activities for the classroom, and a presentation on Ukrainian history and the Ukrainian Finminie-Genocide perpetrated under Stalin. Educators were also treated to tours of each museum and a delicious lunch of Ukrainian fare. Please visit CEERES K-12 Outreach Website to learn more and to download Educators’ Guides and Student Materials: ceeres.uchicago.edu/k12.

Teaching Russian Through Fairy Tales: Sleeping Beauty and Beyond

On March 6, 2010, Prof. Valentina Pichugin (Slavic Languages and Literatures) led a teacher training workshop on the use of unorthodox sources for language teaching and learning Russian. In particular, Prof. Pichugin discussed how language teachers can capitalize on unconventional materials (e.g., un-bowdlerized versions of fairytales, colorful vignettes from history, descriptions of foreign cultural traditions) to capture students’ interest and thereby to introduce new material into the classroom. In doing so, she lead the workshop participants through various approaches to folk and literary tales used in Russian language instruction at different American universities. All workshop participants were then given the opportunity to design and share their own teaching units on the subject. This workshop was made possible by the coordinating support of Chicago Public Schools’ Office of Language and Cultural Education. Once again, CEERES was happy to reach out to the small, but dedicated group of Russian language instructors in Chicago!

Coming Soon:
UofC SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

June 28-30, 2010

This year’s theme is Water: An Interdisciplinary Examination Of The World’s Most Essential Resource.

For more information and to register, please visit: cis.uchicago.edu/outreach/
2010 Illinois-Indiana Olympiada of Spoken Russian

The American Council for Teachers of Russian (ACTR) has organized a forum to recognize high school students’ achievement in the Russian language since the late 1960s. Known as the Olympiada for Spoken Russian, this ACTR event occurs annually across several regional competitions. This year CEERES collaborated with Indiana University and the University of Illinois to sponsor the 2010 Illinois-Indiana Olympiada of Spoken Russian. Spearheaded by Mark Trotter, the outreach coordinator of Indiana’s Russian and East European Institute, the Olympiada was held at Chicago Public Schools’ Roosevelt High School. Roosevelt’s Russian teacher, Josh Bloom, generously acted as host of the event.

Over forty-five students from four Chicago schools participated in the Olympiada. In addition to students from Roosevelt, students from CPS’ Rickover Naval Academy and two CPS charter schools, Noble Street College Prep and Pritzker College Prep, also competed. In the end, it was a full day celebration of Russian food, music, and culture in addition to the Russian language. As students went individually to converse with the Olympiada judges, those in wait were able to enjoy Russian-focused games, including Russian language version of Scrabble as well as Soviet-era film comedies. Capping the day, after an awards ceremony in which several students earned top honors, was a performance by Golosa, the UofC’s Russian Choir.

Next year’s Olympiada will likely return across the border to Indiana. Nonetheless, CEERES looks forward to continuing its support of the Olympiada and to furthering its outreach to the vigorous Russian language programs that exist in Chicago’s public schools.

Chicago High School Students Go to Russia

For most students, spring break is a time to relax and hang out with friends. For three fortunate St. Gregory the Great High School students, however, spring break 2010 meant something entirely different: total immersion in Russian culture. This past April 2010, five lucky Greyhounds, teachers Ms. Breanne Goldman and Mr. Frank Edgeworth, and students Brian C., Richard O., and Phillip G. traveled to Vladimir, St. Petersburg, and Moscow to study similarities and differences between Russian and American culture, education, history, and food. They were treated to unmatched Russian hospitality and experienced what most students can only dream of doing: sharing an Easter meal with their host families in the Russian countryside; traveling by night train to St. Petersburg and Moscow; visiting the Hermitage art museum; seeing the Kirov/Mariinsky ballet; studying weapons dating from the 1600s; sampling unusual, delicious foods; seeing Russian folk dancing; meeting new people and forming lifelong friendships; the list is endless.

Initiated, organized, fund-raised, and led by Ms. Goldman, a 2008 CEERES Fulbright-Hays GPA participant, and Mr. Edgeworth, a full-time volunteer teacher through Inner City Teaching Corps, the group lived with host families, went to school, visited churches, museums, and restaurants, and learned to speak the language. This was the inaugural high school study abroad exchange program to Russia led by a Fulbright recipient; eleven Russian students will travel to Chicago in Fall 2010, where they will live, study, and explore Chicago with their teenage hosts and families. Ms. Goldman and Mr. Edgeworth worked with the American Home, located in Vladimir, Russia, to coordinate their visit, and CEERES, along with Sister Cities International, helped to publicize this important partnership between the two countries.

Trip organizer Breanne Goldman commented, “This exchange program is a dream. It is not often that teachers are able to share with students their passion for learning through such authentic, hands-on experiences. Prior to this trip, there was little interest in this often misunderstood region of the world; now, nearly all of my students want to learn more about and travel to Russia. My hope is this exchange program will generate greater interest in forming lasting friendships between Russians and Americans, and that my students develop an even greater appreciation for the world in which they live.”

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of this experience, however, was the opportunity for Ms. Goldman and Mr. Edgeworth to witness their students’ incredible maturity and growth in a mere two weeks. Frank Edgeworth “saw (his) students gain confidence and learn some lessons that they would not have learned in school. It was nice to see three inner-city boys grow as learners.” Breanne Goldman noted: “I am in awe of my resilient students. They challenged themselves, despite hardships, and proved to me, Frank (Edgeworth), and most of all, themselves, that they really can do anything if they try. These kids grew into young adults overnight.”
By John Kuo, Ensemble Balkanske Igre

The 45th Anniversary Spring Festival of Eastern European Dance and Music, March 19-21, 2010, was a most interesting weekend which included dance and music workshops, cultural sessions, dance parties, and a concert that attracted Balkan and Eastern European dance and music enthusiasts from across the US and Canada. The festival was co-sponsored by CEERES, the International House, and the Ensemble Balkanske Igre, which was founded at the UoF in December of 1964 and is dedicated to the research, teaching, and performance of the dance and music of the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

While the term world music is of relatively recent origin, Americans have been learning and enjoying dances and music from around the world for many decades. The 1893 Columbian Exposition featured a Japanese gamelan orchestra as well as other international music. In 1934, a mere two years after the founding of the International House at the U of C, a group devoted to international folk dancing was already active. This group, one of the first such groups in the US continued until the middle 1990’s. During the 1939 New York World’s Fair, Michael Herman, founder of the NYC Folk Dance House, taught international folk dances to as many as 10,000 people at once.

A number of other international folk dance groups met on and off campus in the Hyde Park area beginning in the 1950’s. In 1962 the U of C Folk Dancers club was founded by Steve Sachs, a graduate student in political science. In 1963, an international folk festival (and a cousin of the winter U of C Folk Festival) was founded. Finally, spurred by an invitation from the Bulgarian community of Chicago to perform at their 1965 New Year’s celebration, Steve Sachs and a number of others from the U of C Folk Dancers formed the Ensemble Balkanske Igre.

While the majority of the members were Americans, among the first members were two Bulgarians, one Bosnian, and one Dalmatian Croat. Over the years, we have welcomed members of every race, nationality, and ethnicity, so long as they shared our passion for Balkan and other Eastern European dance and music and left their politics at the door. Our motto is “folklor nema granica”.

For reasons that are not entirely clear - though the counter-cultural movement among the youth may have been a contributing factor - interest in international folk dancing eventually led him to pursue his academic interests and life work in Slavic languages and linguistics.

We invite all members of the CEERES community to drop in at our Balkan Basics dance classes on Sundays, 2pm, at Hamlin Park Fieldhouse, 3035 N Hoyne, Chicago. No experience or partners are needed. Our members’ experience levels range from beginner to graduates of state choreographic schools and former members of national ensembles in Eastern Europe.

An introduction to the Ensemble Balkanske Igre follows.

**Introducing the Ensemble Balkanske Igre**

Founded in 1964, the Ensemble Balkanske Igre was an outgrowth of the University of Chicago Folk Dancers and initially was comprised primarily of students, staff, and faculty from the University. Since then,
the Ensemble has drawn from the ranks of the mainstream and ethnic dancers and musicians of the metropolitan Chicago area. Specializing in the research, teaching, and performance of the rich and diverse traditional dances, music, and songs of the Balkans and Eastern Europe, the Ensemble has performed throughout North America and appreciative audiences have ranged from ordinary folk, from whose lives and folkways the Ensemble draws its primary inspiration, to patriarchs, royalty, and heads of state. A high point was performing for a world-wide television audience estimated at one billion in the opening ceremonies at Chicago's Soldier Field for the 1994 World Cup Soccer championship tournament. In the summer of 1996 the Ensemble was invited to perform at the Varna International Festival.

A magnet for scholars and artists, the Ensemble has been a focal point for the research, teaching, and performance of the folk dances and music of the Balkans and Eastern Europe through field research by ensemble members, regular classes, and performances. Members who have subsequently made significant contributions in the study of folklore include Mark Levy, an ethnomusicologist at the University of Oregon, who was the founder and director of the annual Balkan Music and Dance Camps held on the east and west coasts. In the 1980’s the Ensemble drew in local jazz talents Howard Levy, Don Jacobs, etc. who in turn developed into the Balkan Rhythm Band. The Ensemble has frequently sponsored special workshops and master classes with eminent guest artists and teachers from European national ensembles. Current and past members have also danced with Russian and Ukrainian ensembles such as “Kalinka”, “Petrushka”, and “Hororovets”, and the ensemble’s repertoire includes pieces taught to it by Alex Karaczun, an associate of Igor Moiseyev and past teacher at the Bolshoi School in Moscow. Another muse and mentor to our ensemble is Atanas Kolarovski, the living legend of Macedonian dance and former lead soloist, choreographer, and artistic director with “Tanec” Macedonian National Folk Ensemble of Skopje. Mr. Kolarovski is one of the regular master teachers at the annual Spring Festival held in March. Other eminent guest artists and teachers have included Todor Karaptchanski, the chief choreographer from the world-renowned “Filip Koutev” ensemble of Sofia, Bulgaria, well-known to Americans through Nonesuch recordings and the “Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares” albums, and Mitko Manov, former choreographer and lead soloist for “Filip Koutev” and past dance director for the Duquesne University Tamburitzans.

Currently, the Ensemble is conducting weekly “Balkan Basics” dance classes that are open to the public; no experience or partners required. Each spring, the Ensemble co-sponsors with CEERES and the International House at the University of Chicago a nationally renowned Spring Festival featuring master teachers and performers of Balkan and Eastern European dance, music, and song. The 46th anniversary Spring Festival will be held late March 2011 at the International House, 1414 E 59th, St, Chicago, IL 60637.

For more information about the Ensemble, the 2011 Spring Festival, and Balkan and other Eastern European dance and music events in the Chicago metropolitan area, please call or write to:

Balkanske Igre
PO Box 1157
Chicago, IL 60690

847-331-7842
balkanske_igre@yahoo.com
Lisa Crone Memorial

The Regenstein Library is now home to a memorial sculpture in honor of Anna Lisa Crone, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago, who passed away last June. The touching memorial was sculpted by Prof. Crone’s husband, Vladimir Donchik. The sculpture is located on the Library’s A-Level.

Recent Notable Acquisitions:
• Sistematicheskoe sobranie zakonov RSFSR, ukazov Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo soveta RSFSR i reshenii pravitel’stva RSFSR. Moskva: 1967-70. 15v. on 101 fiches [microfiche xxKLA13.R9 1967 Microforms, 3rd floor Regenstein]
• Soviet Cinema: Film Periodicals, 1918-1942. Part I: Journals. 25 titles on 519 fiches [titles cataloged individually]
• Soviet Cinema: Film Periodicals, 1918-1942. Part II: Newspapers. 13 titles on 66 fiches [titles cataloged individually]
• Russian Theater in the Early 20th Century. 7 titles on 154 fiches [received, but not yet cataloged]
  - Kulisy
  - Novaia studiia
  - Russkii artist
  - Studiia
• Zapiski Peredvizhnogo obschodestupnogo teatra
• Zapiski Peredvizhnogo teatra P. P. Gaid-eburova i N. F. Skarsko
• Zhurnal Teatra Literaturno-khudozhestvennogo obschestva
• Republika Popullore Socialiste e Shqiperisë, hartë topografike. Tirana: 1979-103 topographic maps of Albania [G6830 S50.A5 Map Collection, 370 Regenstein]
• Armenian Periodicals of the Diaspora: Part III. 6 titles on 9 reels located in the Micrforms area of the 3rd floor Reading Room, Regenstein
  - Lusaber (Cairo) [microfm AN326.3.C35L8]
  - Pahak (Boston) [microfm AN41.P7P2]
  - Martkots (Paris) [microfm AN185. P2M3]
  - Tsaghik (Constantinople) [microfm AN265.7.I7T7]
  - Razorik (Plovdiv) [microfm AN253. P58R2]
  - Banber (Istanbul) [microfm AN253. P58R2]
• Synopsis chroniki: Codex Vaticano Slavo 2, 1344-45. Athens: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana: Research Centre for Slavo-Byzantine Studies, 2007. 2v. [Text of facsimile in Church Slavic (Bulgarian recension); articles in Bulgarian and English] [f D17.M27125 2007 Regenstein stacks]

Questions or comments? Please contact June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer for Slavic, East European and Central Eurasian Studies, jpf3@uchicago.edu

For new drawings, photos and an update on the construction of the Mansueto Library being built adjacent to Regenstein, visit: mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/ and try the webcam for a live view of the progress: mansuetocam.lib.uchicago.edu/view/index.shtml

GIVING TO CEERES

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Recent Activities

Lectures


**Elena Marushia kova & Veselin Popov** (Ethnographic Institute, Sofia), “Gypsies/Roma in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe,” February 18.


**Daniel Bunčić** (University of Tübingen), “The Sociolinguistic Implications of Writing One Language in Two Scripts,” April 12.

**Gerard Libaridian** (University of Michigan), “Bridges Hrant Dink Built and Turkish-Armenian Relations,” April 12.


**Irena Stefoska** (Fulbright Scholar, Brown University), “Greek gifts: Archaeophilia, Ochlocracy and Monochromatism in Contemporary Macedonia,” April 29.

Events


**Chicago Festival of Bosnian and Herzegovinian Film**, April 16-17.

**13th Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop**, April 23rd.


**Qualia Conference**, April 30.

**The Seductiveness of the Interval**, an exhibit by Stefan Constantinescu, Andrea Faciu, Ciprian Muresan, Alina Serban, At the Renaissance Society thru June 27.

Council on Advanced Studies Workshops 2010

Modern European and Russian Studies Workshop: “Prussian Classicism as Postcolonial lieux de mémoire: A Transnational Perspective on the Korean Metropolis, Seoul” by Jin-Sung Chun (Busan National University), January 12.


Modern European and Russian Studies Workshop: “The Impossible Vanishing Point: Societal Differentiation in Imperial Germany” by Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield), March 30.


Slavic Colloquium Series

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures continues its colloquium series for a second year. The 2010 schedule has featured the following presentations:


**Kirill Ospovat** (Russian State University for the Humanities), “Religious Poetry, Secular Readership, and Petrine State: (Re)reading Lomonosov’s ‘Ode Paraphrased from Job’,” January 13.


**Lukasz Tischner** (Jagiellonian University), “Gombrowicz and Theological Drama,” February 25.


**Malynne Sternstein** (Chicago), “Tov-ten’s Realism,” April 5.


**Petr Bagrov** “Evgenii Cherviakov and The Poetics of Early Soviet Cinema,” May 18.
New Faces @ Chicago

New Faculty

EUGENE RAIKHEL
(PhD, Princeton University, 2006) joins the Department of Comparative Human Development. Prof. Raikhel is a cultural and medical anthropologist with interests encompassing the anthropology of science, biomedicine and psychiatry; addiction and its treatment; suggestion and healing; and post-socialist transformations in Eurasia. He is particularly concerned with the circulation of new forms of knowledge and clinical intervention produced by biomedicine, neuroscience and psychiatry. My work follows therapeutic technologies as they move both from “bench to bedside” and from one cultural or institutional setting to another, examining how they intersect with the lives of practitioners and patients. He is currently completing a manuscript based on his doctoral research, titled Governing Habits: Addiction and the Therapeutic Market in Contemporary Russia.

PETRA HANÁKOVÁ
hails from the Czech Republic and received her Ph.D. in Film Studies from Charles University in Prague in 2006. Her current research addresses the possibilities of visual studies in analyzing images of national identity. Her teaching expertise is in the history of film theory, reading of theoretical texts, poststructuralist theory, gender studies, and relations between film and visual culture. She is Assistant Professor in the Film Studies Department, Faculty of Arts, at Charles University in Prague. Prof. Hanáková joins Chicago as a 2009-2010 Endeavor Visiting Scholar.

ALEXANDER SEMYONOv
received his Ph.D. in Comparative History from the Central European University in 2006. Semyonov’s latest research project focuses on mirrors of imperial imagination and ideological construction of empire Russian modern history. His research interests are: history of the Russian Empire in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, history and critical theory of nationalism, comparative and entangled history of empires, new intellectual history (Begriffsgeschichte, the Cambridge school) as related to identity discourses and history of frames of imperial imagination. Dr. Semyonov holds a teaching position at the Smolny Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia. He joins Chicago as a 2009-2010 Mellon Visiting Scholar.

Visiting Scholars

JUDIT BODNAR,
a native of Hungary, received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Johns Hopkins University in 1997. Her present research focuses on the city and urban restructuring, the political economy and culture of globalization, uneven development, and issues of conceptual and institutional transfer. Her current teaching interrogates the emergence of the structure and infrastructure of modernity and capitalism, their transformation, globalization and comparative thinking. She is Associate Professor in the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology and History at the Central European University in Budapest. Prof. Bodnar joins Chicago as a 2009-2010 Endeavor Visiting Scholar.

Endeavor and Mellon Visiting Scholars Programs

The Mellon Visiting Scholar Program and the Endeavor Visiting Scholar Program, made possible with the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, are independent but related initiatives designed to foster cutting edge research on contemporary Europe, to promote the diffusion of new ideas through teaching, to bridge differences in American and European academic cultures, and to create networks that connect Europe’s most promising scholars with colleagues in Chicago. Over the next four years, 18 European scholars will research and teach in Chicago for two quarters. The Mellon program typically hosts scholars from Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburg who teach courses of their own design, while Endeavor scholars hail from Eastern Europe and teach in the College’s core curriculum.

These two programs add to the depth and breadth of the University of Chicago’s commitment to Europe, and will further nourish and expand the already vibrant links between Chicago and Paris. For example, in the autumn preceding their Chicago residency, Mellon and Endeavor scholars participate in a two-day orientation session at the University of Chicago’s Center in Paris. The Center in Paris will also serve as the site of major capstone conferences in both programs (Endeavor in 2012; Mellon in 2013). After their residency at the University of Chicago, Mellon and Endeavor Scholars may teach in one of the many undergraduate programs of study offered at the University’s Center in Paris.

Inquiries may be addressed to Dan Bertsche, ddb1@uchicago.edu.
New Faculty Books

Victor A. Friedman, Editor

**Bai Ganyo: Incredible Tales of a Modern Bulgarian - Aleko Konstantinov**
(University of Wisconsin Press, 2010)

Aleko Konstantinov’s classic work, *Bai Ganyo*, has long been known to students of the Balkan history and literature, but until now no adequate English language translation has existed. This volume rectifies this situation, ensuring that this masterpiece of world literature will be accessible to a new range of readers.

The translation is the result of the collaborative effort of CEERES Director Victor A. Friedman, Christina E. Kramer (University of Toronto), Grace E. Fielder (University of Arizona), and Catherine Rudin (Wayne State University) under the editorship of Prof. Friedman. Also included is a new introduction that places the novel in historical and cultural context.

The publisher describes the book as follows, “A comic classic of world literature, Aleko Konstantinov’s 1895 novel *Bai Ganyo* follows the misadventures of rose-oil salesman Ganyo Balkanski (”Bai“ is a Bulgarian title of intimate respect) as he travels in Europe. Unkempt but endearing, Bai Ganyo blusters his way through refined society in Vienna, Dresden, and St. Petersburg with an eye peeled for pickpockets and a free lunch. Konstantinov’s satire turns darker when Bai Ganyo returns home—bullying, bribing, and rigging elections in Bulgaria, a new country that had recently emerged piecemeal from the Ottoman Empire with the help of Czarist Russia.”

Matthew Jesse Jackson

**The Experimental Group: Ilya Kabakov, Moscow Conceptualism, Soviet Avant-Gardes**
(University of Chicago Press, 2010)

The most comprehensive story of unofficial postwar Soviet art yet to appear in any language, *The Experimental Group* takes as its point of departure a subject of strange fascination: the life and work of renowned professional illustrator and conceptual artist Ilya Kabakov.

By placing Kabakov and his conceptualist peers in line with our own contemporary perspective, Matthew Jesse Jackson suggests that the art that emerged in the wake of Stalin belongs neither entirely to its lost communist past nor to a future free from socialist nostalgia. Instead, these artists and the work they produced are inextricably part of a transnational art world for which the Soviet Union is largely a memory, fading fast.

Russell Zanca

**Life in a Muslim Uzbek Village: Cotton Farming After Communism**
(Wadsworth Publishing, 2010)

Russell Zanca (Associate Professor of Anthropology at Northeastern Illinois University and an Associate Member of CEERES) published his ethnography of social change among Uzbek cotton farmers. Notably, *Life in a Muslim Uzbek Village* is the first modern, Anglophone ethnography of Uzbekistan, making a much needed contribution to scholarship on post-Soviet Central Asia.

Prof. Zanca’s book explores both the continuities and changes that Uzbek villagers working on a *kolkhoz* (collective farm) experienced as a result of Uzbekistan’s political independence from the Soviet Union. The work examines, “how the production and global exportation of cotton has brought new challenges and opportunities to contemporary Uzbek citizens. Students will see how vital cotton is to the modern Uzbek way of life as a means through which the people generate the bulk of their country’s wealth (and, as a result, their own autocratic society). In light of their changing environs, the people of Uzbekistan have been forced to negotiate a new identity and culture for themselves in relation to their country, their continent, and the the world.”
Victor A. Friedman
Krste P. Misirkov Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to Macedonian Scholarship, Ramkovski Foundation, Skopje, 2009.
Annual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Scholarship, American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, 2009.

Faculty News

Victor A. Friedman (Slavic, Linguistics, CEERES Director) published:

Lectures:
Albanian Admirativity, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, The Ohio State University, 3 August 2009.
Gjorgji Pulevski i mnogujazičnost vo Makedonija [Macedonian: Gjorgji Pulevski and multilingualism in Macedonia], Public lecture sponsored by the city of Radovish, Radovish Kulturen Centar, Republic of Macedonia 14 September 2009.
Mnogujazičnost vo Makedonija i Evropa [Macedonian: Multilingualism in Macedonia and Europe], Public lecture sponsored by the city of Strumica, Strumica Kulturen Centar, Republic of Macedonia 15 September 2009.
Violence in Bai Ganyo, Roundtable on Violence in Balkan Literature, AAASS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 12-15 November 2009.
The Mountain of Tongues: Complexities of the Caucasus. Lecture in the series “Smart Voices” at the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, in connection with an exhibition of the visionary work of Chicago artist Joseph Yoakum, 6 December 2009.
Social Uses of Evidentiality in the Balkans, LSA annual meeting, Baltimore, 7-10 January 2010.
Slavic and Non-Slavic: Borders, boundaries, and feature selection in the Balkans. Conference on Slavic Languages: Time and contingency. UC


Tamara Siversteva (Associate Member CEERES) received three IREX (Embassy Policy Specialist) grants for the field study in Azerbaijan in 2007-2009 on the subject “Islam in everyday life of Azerbaijani” and short term fellowship at the Kennan Institute in 2010.

Russell Zanca (Anthropology, Northeastern Illinois University and CEERES Associate Member) received a Fulbright Senior Specialists Award to initiate an anthropological project on labor migration from Central Asia with colleagues at the University of Zurich. It begins in May 2010.
2010 Summer Teacher Institute

WATER
An Interdisciplinary Examination of the World’s Most Essential Resource

This interdisciplinary 3-day institute will explore global water issues, including those that affect the Great Lakes region. Daily topics addressed will include: water scarcity, effective water management, and water issues in politics, sanitation, agriculture, and economics. Faculty and staff from the University of Chicago and other educational institutions from around the world will speak and will speak each day, interspersed with discussions of K-12 curriculum development.

Intended primarily for elementary through community college educators (but open to all interested parties), the Institute will address each theme through a series of presentations and group discussions. Attendees will receive suggested instructional resources for curriculum building and K-12 lessons aligned to Illinois State Standards will be developed based on presentations made at the Institute.

June 28-30
Summer Institute
- Day I - Global: Fresh Water Issues
- Day II - Fresh Water Politics
- Day III - Social Life of Water

July 1st
Curriculum Development Day

July 2nd
Chicago Water Infrastructure Field Trip

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM each day
1 Lane Credit
18 CPDUs for 3-day Summer Institute
CPDUs also available for July 1 & 2
Online registration is required. Please contact Jamie Bender at jbender@uchicago.edu for more information.

http://cis.uchicago.edu/summerinstitute

The Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies at The University of Chicago
5835 S. Kimbark Avenue • Judd Hall 323 • Chicago, IL 60637
(773) 702-0886 • ceeres@uchicago.edu • http://ceeres.uchicago.edu