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Please send any news, comments,
or contributions to Claire Shaw.

Deadline for submissions for
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British Association for Slavonic and
East European Studies (BASEES)



@BASEES

Editorial

Each autumn, the British Academy hosts a meeting for learned societies in the humanities and social sciences to discuss areas of current concern that affect our disciplines. Last November's gathering concentrated on two issues of wide interest: reform of the school curriculum – especially in England, and the introduction of the Gender Equality Charter Mark for humanities and social science departments in UK universities.

The teaching of modern languages in British schools has been a concern of BASEES members for many years, and the coming changes to the curriculum do not seem to offer much prospect of real improvement in an already difficult situation. The meeting identified area studies provision as being especially uncertain, a situation accentuated by the fragmentation of the UK school curriculum, with each of the four constituent parts of the UK formulating their own education policies without any overarching consideration of the national picture. This poses particular difficulties for small subjects, and the meeting encouraged university departments to establish links with schools to foster the continued health of their own subjects. One of the messages from the discussion was that it was very much in the interests of universities to take a more direct involvement in schools as a means of helping to ensure a continuing supply of well-qualified undergraduate students. The Royal Geographical Society has a particularly active and wide-ranging programme of work with schools and its representatives at the meeting discussed how this had been instrumental in sustaining geography as a university subject. Assessment will also be changing; the English school curriculum will be assessed overwhelmingly by examinations under the new curriculum, with A-levels containing no assessed coursework and results dependent solely on an examination at the end of two years of study. Most British universities now place very considerable weight on coursework as a formal component of assessment throughout a student's degree programme, and we will need to be alert



to the arrival of students who will have focussed on preparing for examinations, rather than having been assessed on a range of coursework.

Much more encouraging was discussion around the Gender Equality Charter Mark for humanities and social science departments in British universities. Women make up more than 60 per cent of students studying arts, humanities and social science subjects in the UK, but this profile is not reflected in the composition of the academic profession. The number of female academic staff has increased in the past decade, but women still make up only 44 per cent of academic staff, and this inequality is hugely accentuated among professors. Only 26 per cent of professors in arts, humanities and social science subjects are women, and a similarly low proportion of women is found in senior academic management. The majority of professional and support staff in UK universities are female, however, and there is clear evidence of occupational segregation by gender in this area of universities' activities. It cannot be right that a largely female student population finds itself in a university system where the overwhelming majority of senior academics and managers are men. The Athena SWAN charter for women in science has been very successful since its launch in 2005, and the Equality Challenge Unit is now developing a similar scheme for our disciplines. The Charter Mark requires universities and their constituent departments to reflect carefully on their culture, to recognise the problems posed by gender inequality and to propose action to ameliorate >>

Conferences and Calls for Papers

Call for Papers: RUSSIA-UK: FIVE CENTURIES OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

The 6th International Peter the Great Congress

St Petersburg, Russia

9-11 June 2014

Applications containing a short synopsis of the proposed paper should be submitted to the organisers before 25 March 2014. The Organizing Committee will provide accommodation and subsistence in St Petersburg from 8 to 12 June 2014 for out-of-town and foreign participants. Contact: +7 812 272 29 12; petr@fond.spb.ru.

Call for Papers: ICCEES World Congress Makuhari, Japan

August 3-8 2015

The Organizing Committee accepts proposals for panels, roundtables, and individual papers. The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2014. More information on the guidelines for proposals, on registration fees and how to create an account and submit a proposal can be found at src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/iccees2015/index.html. Send all queries to iccees2015@slav.hokudai.ac.jp and network via [facebook.com/iccees2015](https://www.facebook.com/iccees2015).

BASEES Annual Conference

5-7 April 2014

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
The BASEES 2014 Annual Conference will take place 5-7 April and will be based as usual at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Building upon the success of the 2013 BASEES/ICCEES Congress 'Europe: Crisis and Renewal', the BASEES Annual Conference continues to attract scholars of Slavonic and East European Studies from a wide range of disciplines from across the world. In 2014 programme includes more than 400 papers in Politics; History; Sociology and Geography; Film and Media, Languages and Linguistics; Literatures and Cultures; Economics.

The conference programme is now available to download.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof Judith Pallot (University of Oxford); Prof Piotr Piotrowski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan); Andrei Sannikov (Belarus presidential candidate 2010); Dmitriy Bykov (Russian writer, poet and journalist).

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN via the website – www.basees2014.org.

For special rates, register before 1 March 2014.

the situation. The whole process of career development from undergraduate to PhD, and then into academic positions of increasing seniority contains personal and structural obstacles for women which need to be understood and addressed by academic institutions. The system of short-term contracts – now very common among teaching staff in our disciplines – has particularly negative consequences for the retention and progression of female academics. The Gender Equality Charter Mark is being launched this year and, since BASEES members work in a very wide range of departments, we have the opportunity to spread the word widely about it.

Issues of equality and diversity have also directly affected BASEES members in the past few months. The Russian government's adoption of a law that discriminates against LGBT people has caused considerable concern among students planning to study in Russia, worried about their personal safety there. A number of university departments have reported a reluctance among LGBT students to consider studying in Russia. One of the great strengths of BASEES is the immense depth of experience among its members, and we have been able to draw on this knowledge to provide sensible advice for LGBT students contemplating a period of study in Russia. It is important that we maintain a diverse community of scholars working in our disciplines and do not deter any group of people from pursuing a career in Slavonic and East European studies.

BASEES members will, I hope, have noticed our new website – www.basees.org. The new site gives us the opportunity to include a much wider range of content and to disseminate news and ideas much more effectively. Over the coming months, we shall be increasing the amount and variety of resources available through the website and using it to promote the work of BASEES and its members. Podcasts of

some of the keynote lectures from the 2013 BASEES conference are available on the site and we shall be adding new material from conferences taking place this year. 'Meet the postgraduates' is a new element of the website, and I hope that a wide range of research students will take the opportunity to introduce themselves and their work to a wider audience in coming months.

At the end of January, the University of Glasgow's Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies hosted the BASEES postgraduate workshop. The day focussed on the theme of 'Modernity' and brought together more than twenty graduate students from across Europe. Discussion ranged around the meanings of modernity for central and eastern Europe, with detailed analysis of how societies and states responded to the issues posed by global conceptions of modernity. As protests were gathering strength on the streets of Kyiv, the workshop heard a paper discussing the causes and nature of the political and social strife in Ukraine. Other speakers analysed aspects of social and political development in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Montenegro and Latvia, providing an outstandingly broad view of the ways in which central and eastern Europe is facing the complexities of the twenty-first century. The workshop again showed the vitality of postgraduate work in our area, with research students embarking on topics that address key questions for the modern world – and which are often difficult and challenging. The forthcoming BASEES annual conference in Cambridge in April includes many papers from graduate students and postdoctoral researchers and promises to be a very stimulating event – I look forward to seeing many BASEES members there.

Peter Waldron
President, BASEES, and
Professor of Modern History,
University of East Anglia

Wide array of new theses added to UTREES database

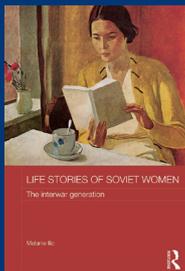
UTREES, the online bibliographical database for British and Irish university theses in Russian and East European studies, has had 190 recent theses added. The database now holds the particulars of over 4,500 doctoral and selected masters' theses from 1907 to 2013.

As with previous annual updates, the new additions include theses on an immense variety of topics – for example, LGBT activism in Serbia; Anglicisms in post Soviet Russian; and even the influence of Jamie Oliver on Slovene cookery books.

Supported by the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA), the database has advanced search facilities and can be accessed free of charge at utrees.mhra.org.uk.

We want UTREES to be as complete and accurate as possible. Please have a look at it and let us know of any additions or corrections at utrees@mhra.org.uk.

Gregory Walker
Editor, UTREES



**Life Stories of
Soviet Women:
The Interwar
Generation**
by
Melanie Ilic

This book provides a
rich picture of what
everyday life was like
for women in Soviet

times by presenting the life stories of eight women who were born in the interwar period. The life stories are told through interviews with the women who were well educated and well placed in Soviet society, often in elite positions, and therefore well able to observe and articulate the wider conditions for Soviet women besides their own personal circumstances. The interviews, which are edited and preceded by a full introduction setting the context, touch on a wide variety of issues: key events in Soviet history; religion and nationalities policies; and women's everyday experiences of life in the Soviet Union – growing up and going to school; education; falling in love and getting married; giving birth and starting a family; housework and paid employment; travel; leisure and culture; and remembering the past.

**Melanie Ilic is Professor of
Soviet History at the University
of Gloucestershire**

"Conducting the interviews for this book proved to be very stimulating and moved my research in Soviet women's history outside of the archives and libraries. It was a great privilege to be able to speak to my respondents, and to work with those who assisted in the interview and transcription process. Peter Sowden at Routledge was keen to publish the resultant 'life stories' and the final publication was ably assisted by an efficient production team. My research on Soviet women's everyday lives continues, with a thematic companion volume to the Life Stories book now forming part of my on-going research." Melanie Ilic

For more details and to purchase this book at a special 20% discount, visit www.routledge.com/9780415814690 and enter the discount code BASEES14 at the checkout.

BASEES members are also entitled to a special members' discount of 20% on any Routledge/BASEES books, browse the series at www.routledge.com/u/basees14 and enter the discount code BASEES14 at the checkout.

Professor Richard Peace, 1933-2013

**Richard Peace, former President of
BUAS and Emeritus Professor of
Russian at the University of Bristol,
died on 5 December 2013.**

Richard was born in Burley-in-Wharfedale, near Leeds, and from the age of eleven attended Ilkley Grammar School. He started to teach himself Russian while still at school and, like many British Slavists of his generation, studied the language intensively during his period of National Service. In 1954 he went on to read French and Russian at Keble College Oxford, from which he graduated in 1957. After a period of postgraduate study in Oxford, culminating in 1962 with the award of a B. Litt., he was appointed to the first lectureship in Russian at Bristol, where the subject was being established by the late Professor Henry Gifford under the aegis of the Department of English. Under Richard's leadership a single honours programme in Russian and various joint degree programmes were introduced. In 1975 Richard was appointed to a Chair of Russian at the University of Hull, where he also served from 1982 to 1984 as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. In 1984 he returned to Bristol, to take up the Chair of Russian that had just been created, and here he remained, as Head of Department, until his retirement in 1994.

It was during the first of his two long periods at the University of Bristol that Richard began to produce an important corpus of scholarship in the field of classical Russian literature. His first substantial publication, a dense article on Lermontov's *Hero of Our Time*, still seems fresh. There followed a close reading of Dostoevsky's major novels, published by Cambridge University Press (1971), which perhaps remains Richard's best known work and secured his international reputation. Then came a book of similar scale on Gogol, also published by Cambridge (1981), and a study of Chekhov's four best-known plays, published by Yale University Press (1983). Richard also wrote a monograph on Goncharov's novel *Oblomov* (1991) and a critical study of Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground* (1993). He remained active throughout his retirement, publishing an edition of Griboedov's play *Woe from Wit* (1995), lengthy online studies of Turgenev (2002) and Tolstoy (2010) and numerous articles and invited chapters in books. (A full list of Richard's publications and his online publications themselves can be seen at eis.bris.ac.uk/~rurap/welcome.htm.) His standing as a specialist in classical Russian literature was reflected in his

appointment in 1995 as a Vice-President of the International Dostoevsky Society and in the award of a D. Litt. by Oxford in 2010.

Richard will be fondly remembered in the field of Slavonic Studies for many things, besides his impressive corpus of scholarship. From 1977-81 he served as President of our national association of Slavists (then BUAS) and defended the subject vigorously against those who at that time were intent on its 'rationalisation' in UK universities. He contributed significantly to cultural diplomacy in the late 1970s and early 1980s, serving for several years as Chair of a committee overseeing the expanding programme of student exchange for which biennial Anglo-Soviet agreements negotiated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British Council made provision. In this capacity, he visited British undergraduates on placements in Leningrad, Minsk and Voronezh. He also served on boards organised by the British Council to select postgraduates for studentships in the Soviet Union. At Bristol, he will be remembered as a staunch advocate for his subject in the University, a thoughtful teacher and an amusing companion.

On his retirement Richard returned to his native Yorkshire and bought a house on the River Wharfe a mere three miles downstream from the town in which he grew up. Here he could indulge his passion for angling. However, he maintained a close link with the department at Bristol, frequently attending its conferences and symposia. It is of some consolation that three weeks before his sudden death Richard and Virginia, his wife of fifty-three years, attended and greatly enjoyed a large gathering of present and former colleagues, alumni and current students which was organised at the Watershed in Bristol to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the department he had helped to found.

BASEES is sorry to record the death, on 14 November 2013, of Peter Frank, emeritus professor of Russian Government at the University of Essex, and sometime chairman of NASEES (one of the two professional associations that united to form BASEES in 1989).

A full obituary of Professor Frank will be included in the May issue of the BASEES newsletter.

BASEES-Funded Postgraduate Research Activities

Julia Tatiana Bailey: Soviet Art in Cold War America



Anton Refregier,
*Heir of the
Future, 1943.*
Oil on canvas.
Pushkin Museum
of Fine Arts,
Moscow.

A Postgraduate Research Grant from BASEES gave me the invaluable opportunity to spend three weeks undertaking archival research in Moscow in April 2013. My doctoral thesis focuses on Soviet-American cultural exchange in the early Cold War and the Russian archives proved a plentiful resource, holding many items which I have been unable to locate elsewhere. The majority of my time was spent researching in the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF), where the BASEES guide to 'Using Archives & Libraries in the Former Soviet Union' (www.basees.org/resources) proved indispensable. My prior consultation of the GARF finding aids in the British Library was also important preparation which enabled me to maximise my research time. I was pleasantly surprised by the facilities at GARF: while one has to arrive early to secure a working microfilm machine and jump through some bureaucratic hoops, the research room is fairly modern and below their gruff exteriors, I found the archivists to be knowledgeable and accommodating. The Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI) proved less welcoming, but its dated appearance belied a remarkably efficient system which enabled me to quickly locate relevant files. I also spent two days working within the archives of the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. In addition to consulting exhibition planning documents, I viewed paintings by American artists in the Museum's storeroom. This unique experience gave me a much deeper understanding of Soviet-American cultural exchange than documentary evidence alone.

I am very grateful to BASEES for their support in facilitating this very rewarding and insightful experience. Now based in Washington, D.C. as a Predoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, I am preparing to deliver some of the results of my BASEES-sponsored trip at a symposium on 'Art and Diplomacy' at the University of Georgia in March 2014.

Ana Grgic: Film Archives in the Balkans

My trip began at the 'Nitrate Film Festival' in Belgrade, the only archival film festival of its kind in the Balkans. Participation at the film festival allowed me to network with the community of archivists and film historians in the region, and discuss the state of archives and history in the national institutions. In Belgrade, I gathered important written material on one of the first fiction films made in the Balkans, *Karadjordje or the Life and Deeds of the Immortal Duke Karadjordje* (1911, dir. Ilija Stanojevic) as well as having the opportunity to view it on the big screen at the cinematheque. Then my journey took me to Skopje (Macedonia) where the cinema pioneers, the brothers Manaki, left their cinematographic legacy. At the Macedonian film archive, I viewed the whole collection of their films ranging from 1907 to the 1920s, constituting important records of local life for the Vlach minority in the Balkans and for Macedonians. In Tirana, I was welcomed by the head archivist of the Albanian Film Archive who showed me their film collections and storage facilities, as well



as providing access to the earliest surviving footage filmed in Albania and written material on its film history. In addition to viewing the first amateur (homemovies) films in Slovenia by Dr. Karol Grossman dating back to 1905, which preserve the traces of family and social life, I discovered two early texts written in 1896 by a doctor and a teacher in local newspapers on the advent of Cinematography. In Croatia, I saw footage from Opatija (then under the Austro-Hungarian empire) filmed by the Lumière brothers, and locally produced documentaries by pioneer Josip Karaman in Split, recording the important social events in the city.

Overall, I have collected an enormous amount of information in relation to the history of early cinema in the Balkans. This material will prove invaluable to the contextualisation and corpus for my PhD thesis, 'Mapping constellations: early cinema in the Balkans, archives and cultural memory', supervised by Professor Dina Jordanova at the University of St Andrews. In addition to presenting my research at the upcoming 2014 BASEES conference in Cambridge, I hope to use more of the interviews and resources discovered during this trip in presentations and publications of the coming years.

For more information on postgraduate funding and the work of the BASEES Research and Development Committee, see www.basees.org/research-development.

Study Group of the Russian Revolution, University of East Anglia, Norwich, 3-5 January 2014

This year the 40th annual conference of the Study Group of the Russian Revolution (SGRR) assembled at the University of East Anglia, returning to the site of the group's first meeting in 1975. The event attracted upwards of 50 participants from American, Britain, Germany, and Russia. A great range and depth of research was presented, with new light shed on old topics, including the Communist Party in Leningrad (Yiannis Kokosalakis, Edinburgh); and relatively unexplored topics brought to the fore, such as the rituals and memory of rightist activists between 1900-1914 (George Gilbert, UEA/IHR) and the condition of nervousness from 1890-1914 (Simon Pawley, Oxford).

An additional feature of this year's event was the inclusion of two roundtable discussions on the state of the field. In the first, "Reflections on 40 years of studying

the Russian Revolution", Edward Acton (UEA), Robert Service (Oxford), Steve Smith (Oxford), and Geoffrey Hosking (UCL-SSEES) reflected on the broad themes, approaches, relationships, and animosities that had developed since the group's inception. While in the second, "The Russian Revolution: the next 40 years", Andy Willimott (UCL-SSEES), Aaron Retish (Wayne State), Gleb Albert (Bielefeld), and Frank Wolff (Osnabrück) extrapolated on their own approaches to the revolutionary period, identifying themes that might prove fruitful in the coming years. (A recording of these discussions will soon be available on the BASEES website).

Over the years, the SGRR conference has cultivated a hospitable and stimulating intellectual environment. On the evidence of this year's meeting this tradition is a set to remain. A special thank you should be reserved for the conference organisers, Peter Waldron & Matthias Neumann.

Andy Willimott, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow