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

Deadline for submissions
for the March newsletter is
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British Association for Slavonic
and East European Studies



@BASEES

Editorial

Each autumn the Arts and Humanities Research Council holds a meeting for subject associations in its field at which areas of common interest are discussed.

This year's meeting touched upon areas of considerable significance to our fields of study and was opened by Rick Rylance, the AHRC chief executive, who gave an outline of the AHRC's current priorities and his views on the current prospects for the arts and humanities nationally. His views on the future funding situation for research in the UK were markedly more optimistic than in past years, and he believed that the importance of research and science to the national economy was now well understood. Clearly, with a general election and government spending review both due next year, many uncertainties remain about the outlook for funding research nationally but it was heartening to hear a more upbeat message than has often been the case over the past few years. Rick Rylance emphasised that languages, heritage and design remained the AHRC's priority areas: the continuing recognition of the need to revitalise our national provision in languages at all levels offers our subject area significant opportunities. Alongside the AHRC's continuing emphasis on languages, it is also intending to support more interdisciplinary research. The details of the mechanisms for this are still under discussion, but the AHRC Fellowships scheme is one way in which this type of approach might be funded. This clearly coincides with the area studies approach that BASEES has championed since its foundation, where we have stressed the importance of seeing our region as an inter-connected whole, crossing disciplinary boundaries. The broader issue of interdisciplinarity is one that the funding and research councils want to examine once the outcomes of the REF exercise are known at the end of the year, but the signs seem hopeful for the whole concept of area studies.

The second area that came under close scrutiny was the complex issue of open access and how this could be applied to books in all their many forms. The AHRC is funding a project that aims to illuminate the



different models of open access publishing that could be applied to books, and the meeting also heard from Geoffrey Crossick who is charged with reporting to HEFCE on the whole issue. His analysis of the current state of academic book – and especially monograph – publishing was incisive and fascinating. Over the last ten years, the four largest UK-based monograph publishers (Cambridge UP, Oxford UP, Palgrave and Taylor & Francis) have doubled the number of monographs they have published, but the advent of e-books and the rapid moves towards open access journal articles mean that the ground is shifting rapidly. Geoffrey Crossick's report will examine the importance of the monograph for some disciplines and will discuss the relationship between a PhD thesis and a resulting monograph. He is also considering the business implications of open access models on monograph publishing and how technology is changing monograph publishing. The discussion following his presentation was very informative, and it revealed the clear disciplinary differences in monograph publication. In some disciplines, such as history, a young scholar must publish a monograph if they are to have any real chance of obtaining an academic job. But, especially in the social sciences, monograph publication is less important and publications in high-quality journals are much more significant. It was clear that there is no single approach to the monograph that fits the whole of the humanities and social sciences and Geoffrey Crossick suggested that it will be difficult to find a single solution that will fit all disciplines. He speculated that open >>

Conferences and Calls for Papers

CFP: Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies (IARCEES) Annual Conference 2015: 'Memories and Identities in Central and Eastern Europe'

Trinity College Dublin

8-9 May 2015

The deadline for the submission of proposals is 14 November 2014. The maximum length of the proposals is 400 words.

CFP: Soviet War Propaganda on the Movie Screen, 1939-1946

Cinéma-thèque de Toulouse

12-13 March 2015

The deadline for submissions is 30 November 2014. Please send proposals to irina.tcherneva@ehess.fr.

CFP: The Black Sea in the Socialist World

Birkbeck College, University of London

6-7 February 2015

Please send paper titles and abstracts (around 300 words) by 15 November 2014 to j.conterio@bbk.ac.uk. Workshop papers will be pre-circulated and are due 15 January 2015.

CFP: Contemporary Hungarian Studies Postgraduate Conference: Multidisciplinary European Perspectives

University of Glasgow

12-13 February 2015

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and accompanied by a short biographical note and details of institutional affiliation. Submissions and queries should be sent to hungarianstudiesconference@gmail.com.

The deadline for submissions is 14 November 2014.

CFP: Studies in Russian literature: self-reflection, geo-cultural variability, and the limits of vocation conference

Sofia, Bulgaria

21-23 May 2015

Please send paper proposals in Russian or English, from 150 to 300 words long, supplemented by three to ten references, together with contact details (names, institution, chair/department) to mestosoznanierusistiki2015@gmail.com, with a copy to jordan.ljuckanov@abv.bg, by 15 November 2014.

ICCEES World Congress

Makuhari, Japan

August 3-8, 2015

src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/iccees2015

For more details on these and other conferences, see basees.org/conferences

>> access for books could be a disruptive force in an existing and stable system of research and communication. His report to HEFCE will be nuanced and thoughtful and should provide a basis for informed discussion of how open access could work for the monograph.

A related issue was discussed by the AHRC's Ian Lyne when he talked about the post-PhD situation for researchers in the arts and humanities. In contrast to the sciences our disciplines, by and large, do not have a structured career path for people who have completed a PhD. Opportunities for post-doctoral fellowships in the humanities and social sciences are limited and exceptionally competitive, so that many new PhDs have to take part-time, temporary teaching work if they have any ambition to make a career in academia. The AHRC and the British Academy collaborated to carry out a survey of early career academics and its results were published in September. The survey showed a very mixed picture for early career researchers in our disciplines: the prevalence of fixed-term jobs creates personal instability for highly-qualified people, and it also hampers proper career development for entrants to the profession. Respondents to the survey noted a lack of mentoring available to them, the patchiness of support and advice in general and the difficulty of building and sustaining networks while career prospects were so uncertain. There was also a common perception that established academics often had very little awareness of the mechanisms that were available to support early career researchers and that this compounded what was already a difficult problem. The discussion around this issue was enlightening, and it is clear that some disciplines are more

advanced in their awareness of these issues than others. The Royal Historical Society, for example, has recently published a code of practice for university departments on the employment of temporary teaching staff and it has also been very active in examining gender issues (which are an important part of the difficulties confronting early career researchers). Classicists have set up an online resource specifically to support this segment of the profession. The amount that the AHRC and the British Academy themselves can do to provide solutions to the problems faced by early career academics is limited, and it's clear that the onus falls squarely upon established academics and their faculties and departments to recognise the very precarious position in which the rising generation of academics in our field find themselves and to think carefully about how we can each support the development of the next generation of scholars. One step that BASEES is taking is through the creation of a women's network – it is clear that women can still be particularly disadvantaged at the start of their careers – which will provide support for women scholars in our field: one idea which has been mooted is that senior female members of BASEES could act as mentors to women at the start of their careers. The women's network will be launched at the BASEES conference next spring, and BASEES will be thinking about other ways in which it can provide wider support to people at the beginning of their careers.

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

Professor Stephen Hutchings: Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

Congratulations to Stephen Hutchings, who has been named Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Stephen is Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Manchester, and served as BASEES President from 2010 to 2013. He has research interests in Russian cultural and media studies, Russian and Soviet television and film, Russian and Soviet literature and literary/cultural theory. He is co-author (with Natalia Rulyova) of *Television and Culture in Putin's Russia: Remote Control* (London: Routledge, 2009), and author of *Russian Literary Culture in the Camera Age: The Word as Image* (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2004). He has just completed a major AHRC grant with Professor Vera Tolz, entitled *Mediating Difference: Post-Soviet Russian Television Representations of Inter-Ethnic Cohesion Issues* (2010-2014).



Europe Day comes early to the UK's European University

With the Easter break on the horizon, the Global Europe Centre joined forces with the International Development Office at the University of Kent to organise the annual Europe Day celebrations, unconventionally, on 9th April. With the success of our 2013 event, which also saw the launch of the Global Europe Centre (GEC), we set ourselves a precedent for 2014!

The day commenced with the most exciting University Challenge event, having three University of Kent Schools in competition – History, Politics & International Relations and the Kent Business School. Despite the fierce competition and the iron fist of our very own 'Jeremy Paxman', the students from the School of Politics and International Relations took away the main prize.

With European elections getting close, the event subsequently continued with our 1st European election hustings, which hosted seven party representatives, ranging from Labour, Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, Greens, to the less

conventional - UKIP, Liberty GB and English Democrats. With our Chair, Professor Korosteleva, strictly following the Electoral Commission's guidelines, the event was interesting and useful for exposing electoral platforms of the different party representatives.

After a brief lunch, filled with music, general mingling and speeches by the Vice Chancellor Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and the European Commission's Head of Communications from London, Marie-Madeleine Kanellopoulou, we resumed our Day with the European Culture Show.

– also presented a printed edition of their Europeanisation project – our first GEC student workshop held back in October 2013, supported by CEELBAS and the Kent Graduate School. In addition to all the above, we had a number of very informative stalls to showcase activities from across the University of Kent School, societies and campuses, a separate stall on Ukraine with all the latest developments from the country. Guests were also encouraged to participate in our quiz and vote in the photo competition, whilst the University's Centre for English and World Languages (CEWL) organised free language taster sessions in Russian and Portuguese.

BASEES ANNUAL CONFERENCE Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge 28-30 March 2015

The BASEES 2015 Annual Conference will be 28-30 March 2015 and will be based as usual at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Building upon the increasing successes of past BASEES conferences the BASEES Annual Conference continues to attract scholars of Slavonic and East European Studies from a wide range of disciplines from across the world. The 2014 conference attracted more than 430 people and over 380 papers in Politics, History, Sociology and Geography, Film and Media, Languages and Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures, and Economics.

General enquiries about the conference are welcome at info@basees2015.org.

THE BASEES BULLETIN

The BASEES Bulletin is a fortnightly e-bulletin sent to over 700 academics, scholars and experts in the field of Slavonic and East European Studies. Published every other Thursday, the BASEES Bulletin compiles up-to-the-minute information on conferences, calls for papers, and upcoming publications. To join the mailing list, click the button on the front page of BASEES.org. Furthermore, the Bulletin can help publicise your upcoming event or publication with the rest of the BASEES community. Simply click the "Content Submission" button in the Bulletin to send an email direct to the editorial team.

Chris Jones, Editor, BASEES Bulletin



Sponsored and organised by the Kent Business School, it had had music and poetry recitals from countries across the Continent. The event concluded with a very special performance by Ukrainian children, performing traditional songs from their native country and wearing their beautifully embroidered traditional shirts. Overall, a real feast for the eyes of anyone wanting to explore the best of European cultures and wanting to see what it is that really makes us united in our diversity!

We also launched the 1st Special Issue 'Europe in the World', of the Kent Political Almanac, our first Student Journal at the School of Politics & IR, and our particular thanks should go to Leo Wilkinson, the editor-in-chief, and his editorial team for their truly mammoth effort. The online version of the issue is already available online: kent.ac.uk/politics/gec/news/documents/kpa-europe-in-the-world.pdf.

Our Doctoral students – Eske van Gils, Igor Merheim-Eyre and Lucas Janulewicz

All these would not have been possible without a huge effort and enthusiasm from our students from different schools at the University. We should also acknowledge the supporting role of the European Commission and European Parliament Offices in London, CEELBAS, our own Print & Design Studio, and add our sincere thanks to our colleagues from International Development Office and our support staff at Politics & IR.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all those who came to support our event! Without their support (and legitimation) our effort would have been unrequited. With next year's 50th anniversary of the University of Kent on the horizon, we look forward to another exciting opportunity to celebrate our European connection – and you are all welcomed to do so with us!

The Global Europe Centre team

Music and Empire in East-Central Europe

The annual conference of the BASEES Study Group for Russian and Eastern European Music took place in the Department of Music of the University of Durham on Saturday 4th October 2014. Marking 2014 as the centenary year of the outbreak of World War I, which catalysed the disintegration of European empires and the subsequent establishment of national states, papers concentrated on the relationship between music and empire in East-Central Europe. A broad range of case studies were presented, including designations of Russian cultural identity in the age of empire, the effect of the Stalinist project of musical 'nation building' on the compositions of the Soviet composer Aram Khachaturian, and an appraisal of musical works inspired by and dedicated to the Empress and Queen Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary.

In addition, the conference included the presentation of a new publication by Dr Marina Raku (State Institute for Arts Studies, Moscow) entitled *Музыкальная классика в мифотворчестве советской эпохи* [Soviet myth-making and the classical musical heritage] (Moscow: Novoye literaturnoye obozreniye, 2014). The book was introduced and discussed by Prof. Mikhail Naumovich Epstein (Director, Centre for Humanities Innovation, Durham University), and features a number of essays on central figures of the myth-making in the Soviet period, such as Beethoven and Musorgsky.

A number of delegates travelled from across the country and from abroad (including Russia, Serbia, Hungary, and Italy). Furthermore, a handful of members of the postgraduate and staff communities of the University of Durham were present at the conference, and REEM would like formerly to extend its gratitude to the university for hosting the event.

Joseph Schultz

New Titles in the BASEES/Routledge Series on Russian and East European Studies

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

Ethnic Relations in Post-Soviet Russia Russians and Non-Russians in the North Caucasus

By Andrew Foxall

While the collapse of communism in Russia was relatively peaceful, ethnic relations have been deteriorating since then. This deterioration poses a threat to the functioning of the Russian state and is a major obstacle to its future development. Analysing ethnic relations in the North Caucasus, this book demonstrates how a myriad of processes that characterised post-Soviet transition, including demographic change, economic upheaval, geopolitical instability, and political re-structuring, have affected daily life for citizens. It raises important questions about ethnicity, identity, nationalism, sovereignty, and territoriality in the post-Soviet space.

October 2014

Hb: 978-0-415-83369-1: £90

Belarus under Lukashenka Adaptive Authoritarianism

By Matthew Frear

This book explores the nature of the regime of Alexander Lukashenka, who has ruled Belarus since 1994, and who is often characterised as "the last dictator in Europe". It discusses how Lukashenka came to power, providing a survey of politics in Belarus in Soviet and early post-Soviet times, how power became personalised under his regime, how he coerced opponents, but also had good popular support, and how his authoritarianism was adapted in order to maximise popular support. The book also discusses current opposition strategies, and assesses how Lukashenka's regime is likely to develop in future.

November 2014

Hb: 978-0-415-85527-3: £95



The Jagiellonians: Dynasty, Memory and Identity in Central Europe is a major 5-year research project (2013-18), funded by a European Research Council Starting Grant and based at the History Faculty, University of Oxford. The project is led by Dr. Natalia Nowakowska (PI), with a team of 5 post-doctoral researchers.

The Jagiellonians were one of the most important dynasties in Renaissance Europe, ruling lands which constitute no fewer than 14 present-day states. This was a royal dynasty which for two centuries flourished – paradoxically – in the elective monarchies of Central Europe. It has been heavily mythologised, eulogised, criticised and argued over ever since in those lands, though the Jagiellonians remain little known in the English-speaking world.

This project aims to offer a new study of the Jagiellonians, which focuses on them as a major international political phenomenon.

It uses the Jagiellonians as a case-study to explore how dynasties functioned and what they were in Renaissance Europe. It examines the Jagiellonians' legacy by looking at the highly divergent ways in which they have been remembered across Central Europe.

By tracing the evolving meanings attributed to the Jagiellonians from the late middle ages until the present day, the project will offer a metahistory of the dynasty. It aims to fill a gap in our knowledge of Europe in the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, by putting the Jagiellonians fully back in the picture, alongside the Habsburgs, Tudors, Bourbons, Borgias, Medici and other celebrated royal houses of late medieval and Renaissance Europe.

For more information, please see jagiellonians.com. To be added to the project mailing list, please email briony.truscott@history.ox.ac.uk.