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

Please note: the BASEES newsletter
will henceforth be published in
November, March and June.
Deadline for submissions for the
June newsletter is 15 May 2015.

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British Association for Slavonic
and East European Studies



@BASEES

Editorial

The 2015 BASEES annual conference takes place at the end of March in its usual home in Cambridge and we are looking forward to welcoming more than 400 delegates from around the world to exchange ideas and engage in debate.

At the 2014 conference, more than 40 countries were represented and some 57 per cent of the delegates were female. At this year's meeting we will be launching the BASEES Women's Forum (see p.3), designed both to promote the study of gender issues in our field and to advance the recognition given to female scholars of Slavonic and East European Studies. Appropriately, at the association's annual meeting (see p.2) during the conference, the BASEES committee will nominate Professor Judith Pallot, a distinguished scholar with wide interests across the history, sociology and geography of Russia, as the association's Vice-President and President-elect.

The conference will also mark the association's collaboration with the publisher Taylor & Francis in a number of ways. *Europe-Asia Studies* is one of the most successful journals in our field, and it now runs to ten issues each year. The able editorship of Professor Terry Cox has seen the journal expand and become the leading international forum for articles across the whole spectrum of contemporary politics, economics and sociology in Russia, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Its first issue for 2015 focuses on 'Patriotism from below in Russia' and provides important insight into this highly significant current phenomenon. The reception that precedes the association's annual dinner at the conference will be supported by two further parts of the Taylor & Francis publishing business: the journal *East European Politics* and the BASEES/Routledge monographs series (see p.4). One of the most important activities for BASEES is to encourage the publication of original research across the entire field that the association covers and the close ties that we have developed with Taylor & Francis over more than a decade have helped many scholars disseminate their work to a wide audience. This spring



will see the monograph series reach a startling milestone with the publication of its 100th volume. The first volume appeared in 2003 and was by Roman Wolczuk, entitled *Ukraine's Foreign and Security Policy, 1991-2000*. The prescience of that first volume has been repeated many times during the intervening dozen years, and the BASEES/Routledge series has become the most extensive publishing venture in our field. In the last year alone, the series has brought out work on Dostoyevsky, on the Socialist Revolutionary party between 1921 and 1939, on the relationship between the EU and its eastern neighbours and on cinema and society in Russia and Eastern Europe. Forthcoming volumes include books on Belarus under Lukashenka, on migration, borders and stability in the EU's eastern neighbourhood and on the south Caucasus. The centenary volume itself will be by Stephen Hutchings, immediate BASEES past president, and Vera Tolz and deals with nation, ethnicity and race on Russian television. At a time when many publishers are taking a hard look at their monograph publication plans, the continuing blossoming of the BASEES/Routledge series shows that it remains possible for monograph publishing to remain both an academic and commercial success. The judicious editing of the series by Professor Richard Sakwa and our close collaboration with Peter Sowden, the Taylor & Francis publisher responsible for the series, has given the monograph series immense prestige and ensures that it can continue to attract manuscripts of the very highest quality. In recognition

Workshops, Conferences and Calls for Papers

WORKSHOP: Russian Culture in the Era of Globalisation

University of Leeds

11-12 June 2015, University of Leeds

If you would like to attend the workshop as an audience member, please contact the organisers Dr Vlad Strukov (v.strukov@leeds.ac.uk) and Dr Sarah Hudspith (s.f.hudspith@leeds.ac.uk) by 1 May 2015.

CONFERENCE: Platform Ukraine

University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies

5-6 June 2015

More information on the project can be found at <http://platformukraine.com>.

CONFERENCE: Musical Legacies of State Socialism: Revisiting Narratives about Post-World War II Europe

Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade

24-26 September 2015

For more information, contact Srđan Atanasovski (srdjanatanasovski@music.sanu.ac.rs) and Ivana Medić (dr.ivana.medic@gmail.com).

CFP: VII International Peter the Great Congress: Petrine Memorials in Russia and Europe

St. Petersburg, Russia

5-7 June 2015

Papers should be submitted before 24 March 2015. For more information, contact the organizing committee: Tel +7 812 272 91 43; tel/fax +7 812 272 29 12; petr@lfond.spb.ru

CFP: BASEES Study Group for Russian and Eastern European Music (REEM) Annual Conference 2015: Music and Crisis

Department of Music, University of Nottingham

22 June 2015

Abstracts of no more than 400 words and short biographical notes (of no more than 200 words) should be sent to reemstudygroup@gmail.com by 15 March 2015. Abstracts will be reviewed and results will be announced by 31 March 2015. Any enquiries should be sent to reemstudygroup@gmail.com.

CFP: 15th Aleksanteri Conference Culture and Russian Society

Helsinki

21-23 October 2015

The deadline for proposals is 17 May 2015. Detailed instructions and links to electronic submission forms are available at helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/conference2015.

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

of the huge contribution made by Peter Sowden to the work of the association, the BASEES committee will be proposing at the annual meeting this spring that he be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the association. The valuable work of both Peter and Richard over many years has been instrumental in advancing knowledge in our area and BASEES looks forward to continuing its fruitful collaboration with Taylor and Francis in the future.

Our area continues to be the focus of international attention as the situation in Ukraine remains complex and very difficult. One disturbing aspect of the sharpening of international tensions has been restrictions placed upon academics carrying out research and attending conferences in Russia. There have been a number of examples in recent months of researchers and conference delegates being detained by UFMS (the Russian migration service) because they have been visiting Russia using a tourist visa. At the end of January, three foreign delegates to a St Petersburg conference on psychoanalysis were questioned by UFMS officials and were charged with violating visa rules by engaging in 'professional activity' while in Russia on a tourist visa. There have been similar reports of researchers using libraries and archives having their visa status examined. BASEES members should be very cautious about using tourist visas to visit

Russia if they intend to do anything that could be construed as professional work. One visa agency is now requiring a written statement from any applicant for a Russian visa who has had more than three Russian tourist visas during the preceding twelve months. It would be useful to ensure that graduate students and any other academics who are travelling to Russia take advice about the most appropriate visa category for their visit, and BASEES would be very interested in hearing about any problems relating to visas that are encountered by academic visitors to Russia.

Such problems are nothing new and those of us who had dealings with the Soviet Union and its East European satellites during the Cold War will remember the challenges associated with carrying out academic work in those countries at times of severe international tension. The annual BASEES conference gives us the opportunity to reflect and discuss both the changes and continuities of the past decades: I look forward to seeing many of you in Cambridge and am sure that our discussions will continue to be held in a spirit of openness and constructive dialogue.

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

UTREES database gets more thesis entries

UTREES, the online bibliographical database for British and Irish university theses in Russian and East European studies, has had entries for 213 recent theses added. The database now holds the particulars of over 4,750 doctoral and selected masters' theses from 1907 to 2014.

As with previous annual updates, the new additions include theses on an immense variety of topics, ranging from Soviet photomontage to the politicisation of Hungarian youth and Poles in the American Civil War.

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

We want UTREES to be as complete and accurate as possible. Please take a look and let us know of any additions or corrections, at gpmwalker@btinternet.com.

Gregory Walker
Editor, UTREES

BASEES CONFERENCE 2015, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 29th March 2015

BASEES members attending the annual conference in March are warmly invited to attend the AGM 2015. It will take place during the lunch break on Sunday, 29th March, at 12:45-13:45, in the Reddaway Room. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch to the meeting. There is also a small cafe on site at which delegates can buy sandwiches, cake and drinks. If you have already booked hot lunch, but would like to attend the AGM instead, please email Charlie Howes: info@basees2015.org.

Workshop Review: Protestantism and the Superpowers – Mission, Spirituality, and Prayer in the USA and USSR

In an article in the *American Historical Review* from June 2000, Matthew Connelly implored historians to 'take off the Cold War lens' when considering international history in the twentieth century.

BASEES Women's Forum

The Annual Conference this March will see the launch of the BASEES Women's Forum, established to further the interest of women in Slavonic and East European studies and to promote research about women and gender in the region.

Membership will be open to all BASEES members who are interested in the field of Slavonic and East European Studies irrespective of race, sex, religion, nationality or sexual preference.

The Forum will engage in a variety of activities, including sponsoring prizes at the BASEES Annual conference for outstanding scholarship produced by a woman and/or that furthers knowledge about gender and diversity. It will also set up a mentoring scheme for women at an early stage in their academic career, to enable established female academics to give advice on careers (including applying for and being interviewed for jobs, and seeking promotion), getting published and managing work/life balance, and to support women undertaking doctoral research (including preparation for extended stays and field work in the region). All those who would be willing to offer mentoring, please do contact Melanie Ilic (milic@glos.ac.uk).

The Forum will be launched with a panel discussion on the experiences of the first generation of women in Slavonic and East European Studies, held on the Saturday evening of the conference. Confirmed speakers include Rosalind Marsh, Mary Buckley, Barbara Heldt and Mary McAuley. Wine and nibbles will be served. All are welcome!

Judith Pallot, Melanie Ilic
and Claire Shaw

Connelly's famous line came to my mind throughout the workshop on 'Protestantism and the Superpowers' held in Leicester on 27 September 2014 with the support of the University of Leicester, the Institute of North American Studies at Kings College London, and the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies. Have scholars, after many decades of relative ignorance, finally picked up the dusty lens of religion, ready to cast it over the ideological conflict of the Cold War?

In his lucid comments that began the day, Axel Schäfer outlined a number of questions that shaped many of the discussions of the day.

- How central was religion to the Cold War?
- Can we separate analysis of the Cold War from concurrent religious developments or are the two concepts intrinsically linked?
- Does the Cold War explain the appeal of individuals such as Billy Graham, or are there broader issues to explore?
- How was religion utilised by the superpowers in the Cold War?
- Does religion only figure in our concerns because religious people were in power?

These are all complex questions about the role that religion played during this period. This workshop did not offer any definitive answers, but the fact it took place highlights that there are commonalities between scholars working on this question from a US and a Soviet perspective, and that a transnational approach to these issues will give clarity to these complex questions. Dianne Kirby noted that we have now reached a 'critical mass' regarding religion in the Cold War.

To address these questions, definitions are of the utmost importance. Scholars need to give serious thought to identifying the distinctions between religion, the position of the Church, and the individual faith of believers – something that will have a strong impact on how religion in this period is positioned. Above all, this workshop highlighted the need for scholars of the Cold War to remove their own disciplinary lenses that have often focused their work on one side of the conflict. In order to fully understand the role that religion played in the Cold War, historians need to take a



transnational approach. Indeed, this workshop was born out of the long-term collaboration between Miriam Dobson and Zoe Knox – the two coordinators of the BASEES Study Group on Religion and Spirituality in Russia and Eastern Europe – who aimed to move beyond the Soviet context and engage with scholars of the US in order to explore the wider impact of religion in the Cold War.

What is perhaps most heartening about the discussions at this workshop is that the role played by religion in this period is no longer overlooked. Historians can now rightly focus on the questions about religion in the Cold War, rather than addressing whether religion is a salient concept worth considering in this period.

Hopefully this is the first workshop of many, both in style and content. There were numerous questions posed in this workshop, but there is much to be done before historians of both sides of the Iron Curtain can offer some definitive answers. Perhaps, as Uta Balbier noted in her work on Billy Graham, it is through a transnational approach that these answers are to be uncovered. Whatever the final outcome, this workshop has cleaned some of the dust from this long overlooked religious lens, allowing us to see this period more clearly.

This is a shortened version of a review published by U.S. Studies Online, available at <http://usstudiesonline.com/review-of-protestantism-and-the-superpowers-mission-spirituality-and-prayer-in-the-usa-and-ussr>.

Mark Hurst
School of History, University of Kent

New Books in the Routledge/BASEES Series

BASEES members are also entitled to a special members' discount of 20% on any Routledge/BASEES books, browse the series at routledge.com/u/routledge/basees/15/ and enter the discount code BASEES15 at the checkout.



Eastern Europe and the Challenges of Modernity, 1800-2000

By *Stefano Bianchini*

This book presents a concise and comprehensive overview of the mainstream

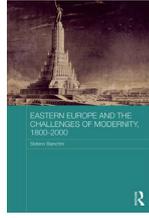
flows of ideas, politics and itineraries towards modernity in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans over two centuries from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the end of the Gorbachev administration. Unlike other books on the subject which view modernity based on the idea of Western European supremacy, this book outlines the various different pathways of development, and of growing industrialisation, urbanisation and secularisation which took place across the region. Overall the book presents something very different from the traditional picture of the "two Europes".

March 2015

Hardback: 978-1-13-883223-7: £100

For more information visit:

routledge.com/9781138832237



Russia-China Relations in the Post-Crisis International Order

By *Marcin Kaczmarski*

This book traces the development of the China-Russia relationship following

the global economic crisis, arguing that the crisis has transformed the relationship. It discusses how Russo-Chinese co-operation has accelerated post-crisis and how the relationship, though advantageous to both sides, is ever more asymmetric, reflecting China's meteoric rise and Russia's relative decline. The book concludes by examining how the changing relationship is affecting the overall international order, including the balance of power vis-à-vis the United States.

March 2015

Hardback: 978-1-13-879659-1: £90

For more information visit:

routledge.com/9781138796591



Nation, Ethnicity and Race on Russian Television: Mediating Post-Soviet Difference

By *Stephen Hutchings, Vera Tolz*

Russia, one of the world's

most ethno-culturally diverse countries, provides a rich case study on how globalisation and associated international trends are disrupting, and causing radical rethinking of approaches to, inter-ethnic cohesion. The book highlights the importance of television broadcasting in shaping national discourse and the place of ethno-cultural diversity within it, arguing that television's role has been reinforced, rather than diminished, by the rise of new media technologies. Throughout, the book shows how difficult it is for Russia to strike the right balance given its Soviet legacy, weak civil society, large native Muslim population, and state aligned media.

March 2015

Hardback: 978-1-13-885328-7: £95

For more information visit:

routledge.com/9781138853287

Meet the Postgrads

Alistair Dickins, University of Manchester

What was your academic background before beginning your PhD?

I did my undergraduate and MA level degrees at the University of East Anglia (UEA), in Norwich. This was basically my first opportunity to do Russian history: I hadn't done any at school or 6th form up to that point, but UEA has an excellent and very active Russian section in the history department, and I became particularly interested in the revolution(s) of 1917.

What is your PhD topic?

My PhD looks at the history of a central Siberian city, Krasnoiarsk, during 1917. The city was the site of one of Siberia's strongest local soviets of workers' and soldiers' deputies and a key location in the establishment of soviet power in the region. My work tries to get to grips with how a local soviet like this could become a ruling organ of state power during the eight month period of March-October 1917. I'm particularly interested in how the institutions

of governance – that is, the forms and practices by which authority was exerted – developed over time and how they fed into both long- and short-term historical trends in the city.

How were you able to get your research done for this?

I conducted all my primary research at several local archives and libraries in Krasnoiarsk itself. Overall, I had two research trips to the city during 2014, totalling around six months in length altogether. In many ways, it was quite a tough experience (I managed to book both trips to coincide with the Siberian winter!), but very rewarding. I found a great deal of fascinating local materials on the subject and met a lot of great people in the process.

Which academic organisations have helped you in your research?

I had a great deal of help from different academic organisations and networks in completing my research. Both my research trips were partly funded by the Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies (CEELBAS), without whose help it would have been very difficult to get the work done. Meanwhile, BASEES provided me with ideal opportunities to present my work to an academic audience, both at its main annual conference and at the conference of its affiliated Study Group for the Russian Revolution.

