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Editorial information

Please send any news, comments, or contributions to the editor, Muireann Maguire (muireann.maguire@exeter.ac.uk).

Deadline for submissions for the November newsletter is 19 October 2018.

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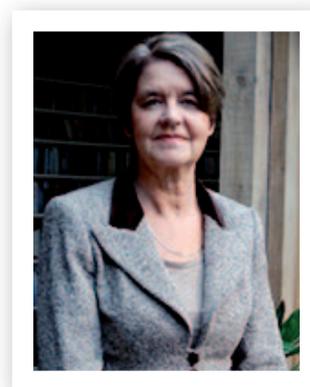
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President's Report 2018

As ever, I should like to begin by acknowledging the support and hard work of the members of the BASEES committee, including the Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Conference Organizer and Information Officer, who all do so much to keep the BASEES show on the road.

Members will recall that last year, due to the happy circumstance of then Secretary Kelly Hignett's pregnancy, we had to make some emergency adjustments to our replacement plans for officers' posts. Melanie Ilic kindly agreed to stay on as Membership Secretary beyond her allotted time. A double thank you is due to her for her tireless efforts to bring order into the membership list during her tenure and also for remaining in post in our hour of need. We also say goodbye to Susan Grant who stepped in as the Association's Secretary for the past year, rising to this challenge with quiet efficiency. Susan has recently been awarded a major Wellcome Trust award to support her research, for which many congratulations. Kelly will resume her role as Secretary from this summer, and we are delighted to welcome Dr. Peter Whitewood (York St John University) as the new Membership Secretary. We look forward to supporting his efforts to expand the membership.

I am also grateful for the work of ordinary members of the committee, who attend meetings on behalf of BASEES, manage subject streams for the annual conference and contribute their experience and thoughts to our decision-making. A special thanks is due to the 'conference team' led by Matthias Neumann, ably assisted by Chris Jones. The annual conference remains the defining activity of the Association and it is thriving. This year, we have planned the second BASEES regional conference jointly with Uppsala University's Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies; it will be held at Uppsala from September 13-14, 2018 (see www.uppsala-basees.org for more information). We are grateful to Peter Waldron and Melanie Ilic for organizing



this event, and, again, to Matthias for his experience and support. At the Swedish end we thank Claes Levinsson, Director of IRES, whose help was vital. Paper and panel proposals have flowed in from Association members and other overseas scholars, some of whom might struggle to reach the annual conference in the UK.

This academic year, the BASEES committee has given serious attention to future-proofing and re-locating the annual conference. 2018 is the last year that Fitzwilliam College hosts this event. A change in the College's conference priorities has obliged us to find a new venue. The committee had already discussed taking the conference elsewhere in the UK on a biannual basis, and we are in discussion with CRCEES (the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies, based at Glasgow) about moving to Glasgow University for 2020 or 2021. In 2019, we will stay in Cambridge but move to Robinson College. As a result of these requirements for greater mobility and two-year forward planning (not to mention the hefty advance deposit required by most venues), taken with other factors, the committee has reluctantly concluded that we need to raise the BASEES membership fee to guarantee the viability of the annual conference. More on this soon.

A final large thank you is due to Richard Sakwa, a lively presence on the committee for many years, co-opted as the editor of the BASEES/Routledge series. He has done a remarkable job of evaluating proposals and reading submitted manuscripts from across the field. The BASEES/Routledge series helps many younger authors to begin publishing their research. As is often happens when someone vacates a long-held position, we realize that they have been doing the work of many. I find it difficult to believe that Richard has found time to function as the BASEES/Routledge series general editor, given >>

Calls for Papers

The XLV Conference of the BASEES Study Group on the Russian Revolution will take place from 3-5 January 2019 at Cardiff University.

The organizers welcome individual papers or full panel proposals on any aspect of Russian history 1880-1932, from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. There will not be a defined theme for the 2019 conference. However, as the Russian Revolution was a process that did not end in 1917, we continue to mark its centenary. Individual paper or complete panel proposals that provide centenary perspectives on the Revolution, or particular aspects of it, are very welcome. All those interested in attending and/or presenting papers should contact Dr James Ryan (School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University) at RyanJ5@cardiff.ac.uk. The call for papers will close on 25 July 2018. Papers will need to be submitted in December to allow for pre-circulation amongst the group before the conference. Postgraduates presenting papers at the Study Group may be eligible to apply for a subsidy of some of the conference costs if they are unable to obtain other funding.

Professional News

Dr. Susan Grant, Senior Lecturer in Modern European History at Liverpool John Moores University, was recently awarded a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award for the project "Growing Old in the Soviet Union, 1945-1991", to commence January 2019. Research conducted over the course of the award will analyse state approaches to ageing that include scientific research, healthcare policy, medical services, and psychiatry. The project also explores subjective aspects of ageing by finding out what it was like growing old in the world's first socialist society, as well as the influence of gerontology in the Soviet Union and abroad. Such a holistic approach to examining ageing will provide scholars with an important blueprint for the study of ageing societies in history and contribute to how people and societies understand the ageing experience. Three postdoctoral research fellows will be joining the project (two 3-year positions and one 2-year position) and the positions will be advertised in July.

>> all the other calls on the time of senior academics. The fact that we will be replacing him by an editorial committee is testimony to his Herculean service.

In my June 2017 report, I commented that events in the wider world had enhanced the importance of our Association's engagement with other organizations. This is doubly true this year. The REF looms on the horizon; striking, as I know, despair into the hearts of some members. As a recognized professional association, BASEES can endorse candidates and make nominations to the numerous committees and sub-committees. I am pleased to be able to report that the candidates the Association endorsed to chair the Modern Language and Area Studies panels were appointed and that some of our nominations for panel membership were also successful. Professor Simon Dixon of SSEES will serve on the criteria committee for the Area Studies panel, Professor Michael Hughes on the assessment panel for History, and Professors Andreas Schönle and Emma Widdis on the Modern Languages committees.

BASEES has continued to represent the interest of our members at various national forums and committees. We are conscious that we need to feed back more informatively to the membership about the discussions we join. To enhance communication, we

now ask our representatives to post short summaries of the meetings they attend in the biweekly BASEES email Bulletin. We also acknowledge that information needs to flow both ways; the BASEES committee wishes to be better informed about issues troubling members. We have begun visiting clusters of Russian and East European specialists in HEIs around the country; however, members are encouraged to bring their concerns directly to the President or to committee members.

Despite the unpromising environment for academia in the past twelve months (visa problems, pension strikes and the continuing assault on the EUSP and CEU), there are encouraging signs that the revival of interest in our field amongst early-career academics is buoyant. It is particularly gratifying that scholars from countries included in the BASEES region position themselves in interdisciplinary area studies and present their work at our annual conference. Despite the challenges we face, the extraordinary range and depth of the panels at this year's conference demonstrates that there is no shortage of innovative, thought-provoking scholarship in Slavonic, Eastern European and Eurasian studies.

Professor Judith Pallot
Email: judith.pallot@chch.ox.ac.uk



BASEES President Judith Pallot and President-elect Matthias Neumann at the Russian Embassy's Russia Day reception in June.

Annual Conference Report



In April 2018, the Annual BASEES conference met for the final time at our long-standing base at Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge. With well over 500 delegates from 47 countries, including our first ever delegate from Brunei, yet again our conference showcased new research, networks, and encouraged reflection on recent history.

Left: Richard Mills launching *The Politics of Football in Yugoslavia: Sport, Nationalism, and the State* (I.B. Tauris, 2018)

By the time delegates convened in Cambridge, Russians had just voted in their seventh presidential election. This election took place against a backdrop of concern over the freedom and fairness of the Russian electoral process, questioning whether the movement towards greater democratisation in the country has stalled. Recent events in Central and Eastern Europe have raised similar concerns. It was thus particularly poignant to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Prague Spring with numerous panels and keynotes throughout the conference.

The conference was opened with an excellent keynote roundtable entitled 'Human Rights in the Region: Domestic and International Perspectives', featuring Mary McAuley (Independent Scholar), Sergey Golubok (St. Petersburg Bar Association), Heather McGill (Amnesty International), and Dalia Leinarte (UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW]). We examined modern interpretations of protest and revolution in East Central Europe in the 1950s and 60s, and the prospects for human rights activism in the post-Soviet space today. Another keynote, expertly chaired by Libora Oates-Indruchová (University of Graz, Austria), focussed on remembering and forgetting of post-war revolutions in Eastern Europe. Janos Rainer (Head of the Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution), Jacques Rupnik (CERI, Sciences Po), and Jan Kubik (SSEES, London) reminded us of these uprisings and the people involved in them, and reflected upon how they are being re-interpreted at present in the post-communist successor states. Both keynote roundtables are now available to download from our website (www.basees.org). As usual, the conference

also showcased some of the outstanding monographs and articles our members have published in recent years. At the conference dinner, over Czech food and beer, prizes were awarded to Jakub Beneš (George Blazyca Prize), Andy Willimott (Alexander Nove Prize), Olena Palko (BASEES Postgraduate Prize), Sarah Badcock (Women's Forum Book Prize), Pauline Fairclough (Women's Forum Book Prize), and Agnes Kriza and Michelle Assay (Women's Forum Article Prizes). After dinner Andrei Gavrilov delighted delegates with a masterful musical journey through the music of dissent.

The conference also hosted two book launches: Yulia Gradszkova and Ildikó Asztalos Morell launched the edited volume *Gendering Postsocialism* (Routledge) which explores changes in gendered norms and expectations in Eastern Europe and Eurasia after the fall of the Berlin Wall; and Richard Mills presented his long-awaited monograph *The Politics of Football in Yugoslavia* (I.B. Tauris).

As mentioned above, this was the last time the BASEES conference met at Fitzwilliam College. In 2019 we will move to our new base at Cambridge University: Robinson College. The conference will take place from the 12 - 14 April and the Call for Papers has been published at

www.basees.2019.org. One of the main benefits of the venue change is the larger number of rooms available at Robinson, which will mean all panels can be held at the same college. Once our new base is firmly established in 2019 and 2020, the BASEES committee has decided to take the conference 'on tour' every couple of years. Our first stop should be Glasgow University in 2021.

We would like to express our gratitude to our conference sponsors Routledge and the European University at St Petersburg for their generous support. A free BASEES/Routledge Conference Chapter Sampler, including articles/chapters on protest in Putin's Russia and the conflict in Donbass by David Lane, Laurien Crump, Volodymyr Kulyk and others, can be downloaded [here >>](#)

See you at #BASEES2019!

Matthias Neumann
Conference Organizer



Panel on 1956 with (from left): Jacques Rupnik, János M. Rainer, Jan Kubik, Libora Oates-Indruchová

Interview

BASEES Newsletter talks record sleeves, Kirill Kondrashin, and academic publishing with Evgeniya Kondrashina, a second year PhD student at Goldsmiths, University of London, and British Library Edison Fellow.



BN: *Evgeniya, tell us about your PhD topic.*

EK: My research, which is supported by my Edison Fellowship at the British Library Sound Archive, explores Soviet and Russian classical music recordings in the West during the Cold War. I am a second-year AHRC-funded PhD in Music. My first supervisor, Dr Tamsin Alexander, is Head of the Centre for Russian Music at Goldsmiths. My second supervisor, Dr Carla Figueira, is an expert in cultural diplomacy. Together, they cover the interdisciplinary aspects of my PhD project.

BN: *What is the Centre for Russian Music at Goldsmiths?*

EK: The Centre for Russian Music (CRM) is a hub for research into Russian and Soviet music and culture, formed by Noelle Mann in 1997 and convened by Alexander Ivashkin from 1999 until his death in 2014. It works in collaboration with the Alfred Schnittke Archive to support teaching, conferences and events on Russian music in the UK. It also works closely with the BASEES Study Group for Russian and East European Music (REEM).

BN: *Why is your research significant?*

EK: Cold War cultural diplomacy studies tend to overwhelmingly focus on either state interactions or musicians' tours to the West, whereas the two main ways in which music spread among the Western public was through sales of records in record shops and radio. I investigate how Soviet music recordings came to the West, via licensing agreements with a variety of Western record companies, as well as through imports and recordings of Soviet

artists on tour. I also analyse the cover images and sleeve notes of the recordings to understand what messages about Soviet and Russian music were conveyed to Western listeners. Some of my research will be published as a **chapter** in a forthcoming book on East-West cultural relations. You can also read a blog post I wrote for the British Library [here](#).

BN: *You hold a BSc in Economics from HSE (Moscow) and two Masters degrees – one in Management from LSE and one in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy from Goldsmiths. What brought you back for more?*

EK: Having varied work experience (for example, during my second Masters I fund-raised for the London Symphony Orchestra), I still feel that research and teaching bring me the greatest professional satisfaction. I'd like to lecture in the Cultural Studies or Media Department of a UK university. Sharing my ideas and findings with others is what excites me most. I have had really interesting and revelatory discussions with academics, record collectors and industry people about the research and I've always left enriched with a new thought or insight. The best thing about doing research is the learning and discovery that I experience every single day. On a personal level, my husband's grandfather is the conductor Kirill Kondrashin. I come across his recordings or mentions of his work in the UK very often in my research. Sharing these with his extended family back in Russia, who are often not aware of these music recordings or mentions abroad, is a very rewarding feeling.

BN: *Have you any words of advice – or warning – about British academia?*

EK: British academia has been mostly positive so far. Both my supervisors offer very valuable advice and fully support my work. Other British academics whom I've approached with questions have been helpful. It has been a struggle to get teaching experience, I have really had to try hard to convince people to let me teach, but that might be a specific issue within my university. I do think that because I have a family and have already worked, I am better able to juggle priorities, plan and organise myself than those who embark on a PhD straight after a Masters. In fact, the skills I have acquired while working have all come in really handy in the PhD so far. For instance, I am not afraid to approach more senior academics or to present at conferences (although I still get nervous, but I have had presentation skills training in my pre-PhD life and that has really come in handy!). I know that post-PhD, life in British universities is really precarious. The short duration of many junior position contracts in academia seems extremely harsh on young academics. I find the academic publishing model irrational: universities paying a commercial third party huge amounts of money to get access to research by colleagues from other institutions! All the money goes to the third party publisher, and the creators of the research don't get paid. Where is the logic in this?

BN: *Where indeed? Thanks for your time, Evgeniya, and good luck completing your PhD. ■*

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

The BASEES/Routledge Series on Russia and East European Studies comprises original, high-quality, research-level work by both new and established scholars on all aspects of Russian, Soviet, post-Soviet and East European Studies in humanities and social science subjects.

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Book Review

Richard Sakwa, *Russia against the Rest: The Post-Cold War Crisis of World Order*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. 362 pages. ISBN: 9781316613511. £19.99 paperback.

For everyone who has been following developments in Russia since the late 1980s, this fascinating, provocative and stimulating monograph deserves close reading. Some established experts on Putinist Russia might consider Sakwa's view of world events as slightly ivory-tower-cum-Valdai-Club, but, as when we study other 'dissident' accounts, our reading should help us to clarify, conceptualise and formulate our own attitudes to the important problems discussed. Here one might query perhaps the most frequently used phrase in the book, "the end [rather than "the suspension"] of the Cold War", dated to 1988-89. Sakwa doesn't discuss whether the Cold War had been re-started from within what is now the Russian Federation by, at the latest, the middle of 2000. He doesn't argue with, or even mention, any of the books and articles by such experts as Shevtsova, Yavlinsky, Bayev, Pastukhov, Piontkovsky or Belkovsky and, for instance, makes only a passing mention of "the *alleged* emergence [of] a self-serving kleptocratic regime" (italics mine, p. 307). The author evidently regards the current Russian regime and administrative system as valid phenomena (one might

recall the Webbs' *Soviet Communism: A New Civilisation* after they had removed the original question mark), and I think he just might be correct. His discussion of the reluctance of the "Historical West" to become part of the Eurasian "Greater West", with Russia as its centre, is of particular interest, as is his reluctance to admit that it was not "the West" but the leaders of the coup and the counter-coup in 1991 who put an end to Gorbachev's and the West's attempts to enlarge the "Historical West" with, not against, the agreement of the Kremlin. The fact that the Russian Federation's first two Presidents were a 'former' high-ranking Communist Party official and a carefully chosen 'former' (but unrepentant) mid-ranking KGB officer goes unmentioned, as does the failure to convene a Constituent Assembly to prepare Russia for a genuinely democratic future. Still, the book is of great interest and clearly follows a huge amount of impressive research.

Martin Dewhirst
University of Glasgow

BASEES 19th and 20th-21st Century Study Groups Conference Report

The organisers of **Plagiarizing Posterity: Reading the 19th Century Backwards** (June 8th, 2018, University of Exeter), Muireann Maguire and Rosalind Marsh, would like to thank the Research & Development Committee of BASEES for substantial funding that, together with travel grants kindly provided by the University of Exeter, made this conference possible. Thirteen UK speakers were joined by two guest keynote lecturers from the US, Professor Ilya Vinitzky (Princeton), who spoke on "Raphael's Portrait of Gogol, 1520: A Facemagoria" and Professor Timothy Langen (Missouri), whose talk was entitled "Selves and Fictions in Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky and Flann O'Brien: How Gogol Stole From Both". A publication is planned. The conference was the first joint event by the BASEES Study Groups for Nineteenth Century Studies and Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Studies, respectively.



From left: Rosalind Marsh (20th and 21st Century Study Group; Bath) with Connor Doak (19th Century Study Group; Bristol) and Svetlana Yefimenko (PhD student; Exeter)