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## Founding Mothers: Christine D. Worobec on the Past and Present of AWSS and Women in Slavic Studies

When Choi Chatterjee kindly asked me to contribute a piece to AWSS's Founding Mothers' Series, I immediately reacted that I did not deserve the title of "founding mother," but rather felt myself to be a daughter of those inspiring founding members. I still feel that way, for without their infectious enthusiasm and embrace of a novice, I would not have become a proud and active member of what became the Association for Women in Slavic Studies.

As a graduate student at the University of Toronto in the late 1970s and early 1980s, I benefited tremendously from a rigorous intellectual atmosphere, supportive faculty members, continuous funding, and teaching apprenticeships. I also experienced almost no gender discrimination within a department that at that time had a history of denying tenure to women faculty members. Yes, a single faculty member once advised me that I might want to get an MLA rather go on for the PhD so that I could get married and please my parents! But outside of that one individual, male faculty members encouraged me to reach for the very top and treated me as an equal. This meant that I was able to carve out my very own field in Russian history, which began unconventionally with the Time of Troubles and ended with the February Revolution of 1917. Even more importantly, I had the freedom to design a broad dissertation topic and chart my own research path based on the training that I had received in the Annales School. What I lacked, however, was any grounding in women's history, which I had to make up on my own. [Read More..](#)

## 2016 AWSS Prizes

### Call for Submissions: 2016 AWSS Graduate Essay Prize

AWSS invites submissions for the 2016 Graduate Essay Prize. The prize is awarded to the author of a chapter or article-length essay on any topic in any field or area of Slavic/East European/Central Asian Studies written by a woman, or on a topic in Slavic/East European/Central Asian Women's/Gender Studies written by a woman or a man. This competition is open to current doctoral students and to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2015-2016. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2015-2016. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no longer than 50 double-spaced pages, including reference matter, and in English (quoted text in any other language should be translated). Completed submissions must be received by **September 1, 2016**. Please send a copy of the essay



and an updated CV to each of the three members of the Prize Committee as email attachments. Please address any questions to the chair of the prize committee.

Karen Petrone, Committee Chair  
Professor of History  
University of Kentucky  
[petrone@uky.edu](mailto:petrone@uky.edu)

Professor Adrienne Harris  
Associate Professor of Russian  
Baylor University  
[Adrienne\\_Harris@baylor.edu](mailto:Adrienne_Harris@baylor.edu) (Please note underscore in this address between Adrienne and Harris)

Professor Amy Randall  
Associate Professor of History  
Santa Clara University  
[arandall@scu.edu](mailto:arandall@scu.edu)

### **Call for Submissions: 2016 AWSS Graduate Research Prize**

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) Graduate Research Prize is awarded annually to fund promising graduate level research in any field of Slavic/East European/Central Asian studies by a woman or on a topic in Women's or Gender Studies related to Slavic Studies/East Europe/Central Asia by either a woman or a man. Graduate students who are at any stage of master's or doctoral level research are eligible.

The grant can be used to support expenses related to completion of a thesis or dissertation, as well as travel, services, and/or materials. The award carries a cash prize of \$1000.00. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome. In addition to two letters of recommendation, please send a CV, a letter of application in which you outline how the money will be used and why it is necessary for progress on the project and, if appropriate, a list of archives and/or libraries or other research resources that you plan to use.

Completed submissions must be received by September 1, 2016. Please send them to Committee Chair, Sharon Kowalsky, Associate Professor of History, Texas A&M, Commerce: [Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu)

### **Call for Nominations, 2016 AWSS Outstanding Achievement Award**

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes the work of a scholar in the field of Slavic Studies, who has also served as a mentor to female students/colleagues in this field. To submit a nomination, please write a letter detailing what your candidate for this award has achieved in Slavic Studies in terms of scholarship or other professional accomplishment, and mentoring of female students/colleagues. In addition, please provide a short list of references with accompanying email addresses so that the committee can contact these referees directly for further information. The committee recommends that this list include both peers and students/staff. A list of past Outstanding Achievement Award recipients is [available here](#).

Please email your letter and list by September 1, 2016 to Choi Chatterjee (Chair) at: [cchatte@calstatela.edu](mailto:cchatte@calstatela.edu), Elizabeth Hemenway at: [ehemenway@luc.edu](mailto:ehemenway@luc.edu) and Karen

## Capital Campaign

AWSS is happy to announce that our Capital Campaign has been quite successful so far! Since kicking off the campaign at the ASEEEES Convention in Philadelphia in November 2015, we have raised \$17,900 toward the Board's goal of doubling our endowment. With increased funds AWSS will be able to do more to support research and scholarship by and about women in Eastern Europe, Eurasia and the former Soviet Union, and provide more funding for graduate students and scholars from the region to attend the ASEEEES and AWSS conferences. We're grateful to all who have donated. And if you haven't given yet, there is still time!

You can donate at:

<http://www.awsshome.org/donate.php>

Valerie Sperling, AWSS Clerk  
Rochelle Ruthchild, AWSS Investment Manager



AWSS leaders Karen Petrone and Choi Chatterjee attended the VIII International Conference of the Russian Association for Research in Women's History (RARWH/RAIZHI), which was held on October 7-10 in Staryi Oskol, Russia. Participants shown in this photo are: Choi Chatterjee, Elena Senatorova, Valentina Veremenko, Julia Gigante, Zinara Mukhina, Alevtina Chernikova, Elena Ilicheva, Natalia Poleva, Evelyne Enderlein, Natalia Pushkareva, Anna Belova, Elena Trofimova, Tatiana Dmitrieva, Liliia Zabolotnaia, and Karen Petrone.

## Ask Aleksandra!

With more than two decades of experience in Slavic Studies and lots of chutzpah, she'll share with you her hard-won wisdom. Under a cloak of anonymity, you can safely ask Aleksandra anything you like, and in doing so you'll help not just yourself but probably others as well who no doubt have the same questions. Please send your questions to [awssnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:awssnewsletter@gmail.com) and put "Ask Aleksandra" in the subject line.



*Dear Aleksandra,*

*I'm in a tenure-track position and am currently revising my dissertation*

for publication. I've tried to gain more insight into the publishing process through senior colleagues, who have provided suggestions on good presses in my field and told me I should have a draft of the manuscript completed no less than one year prior to my tenure review. Meanwhile, I have a junior colleague--who will soon be going up for tenure--who has had a nightmarish experience with publishers, including editorial staff not responding to her queries and presses sitting on her work for months on end. After hearing her horror stories and the stress this has caused her, I am really worried and want to make sure I don't have a similar experience. Specifically, I would like to learn more about the timeline involved in this process. When should I send my prospectus out for review and how many should I send out? How quickly do presses typically respond? What if they do not? Do I follow up or wait for the next press to contact me? Once my book is sent out for review, how long do the reviews typically take? Finally, how long should I expect the entire process to take from sending out the first prospectus to receiving a contract?

Anxiously yours,

Ana

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## Challenges for Gender Studies amidst the Surge in Anti-Gender Movements

**Andrea Petó, Professor, Central European University, Department of Gender Studies**

Who do you think the most well-known and widely translated German gender sociologist in East-Central Europe is? Before you start guessing, the answer is Gabrielle Kuby, who labels gender studies, together with gender mainstreaming and LGBTQI rights, a "culture of death." Kuby gives book talks throughout Central Europe and was recently appointed as a "well-known German sociologist" at one of the newly founded state universities in Sümeg, Hungary. More importantly, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán listed Kuby's *The Global Sexual Revolution* (Angelico Press, 2015) as an important book in his collection, and even referred to it in an interview about the future of illiberal Europe with the online magazine Politico in November 2015. The book has been translated into six languages besides Hungarian: Polish, Slovak, Romanian, Croatian, Czech and English. Kuby, who is the author of twelve books and an outsider to German sociology--both as an academic discipline and profession--promises to have a substantial impact on the discipline's future development. She has a wider reach than most of her colleagues because Catholic websites make her books free for download in local languages, including Hungarian. Moreover, her views are mainstreamed into religious educational institutions, which are increasing in number by the day as the state withdraws public spending on education. Unfortunately, Kuby is representative of a global movement of scholars, which refers to gender studies as a "culture of death." Casting feminists as oppressors of men, she is also a part of the anti-gender movement, which organizes demonstrations and successful referenda against universal human rights and gay marriage in places such as Slovenia.

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## In Memoriam Marina Ledkovsky by Elena Trofimova

ВЕЧЕР ПАМЯТИ МАРИНЫ ЛЕДКОВСКОЙ В МОСКВЕ.  
В московском Доме «Русское Зарубежье» 7 декабря 2015 года состоялся вечер памяти Ледковской Марины Викторовны, ушедшей из жизни в девяностолетнем возрасте 25 ноября 2014 года.

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## Book Reviews

**Iva Smídová, Eva Slesingerová, and Lenka Slepíčková. *Games of Life*, Muni Press of Masaryk University: Brno, 2015. 140 pp. References. Index. [Available for free download as PDF.](#)**

Reviewed by: Skye A. Miner, McGill University, Montreal

*Games of Life* is the combination of sociologists Iva Smídová, Eva Slesingerová, and Lenka Slepíčková's ethnographic work in Czech reproductive medicine. Three case studies make up the book- childbirth, assisted reproductive technologies, and embryo transfer- which are carefully selected to test theories of biopower and biopolitics in the Czech setting (Foucault 1978; Rabinow and Rose 2006). Each author contributes to different chapters of the book comparing and contrasting various fields of Czech reproductive medicine in order to capture the invasion of biomedicine into the post-communist country.

[Read More..](#)

**Georgios Papanicolaou. *Transnational Policing and Sex Trafficking in Southeast Europe: Policing the Imperialist Chain*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. ix, 343pp. Notes. References. Index. Hard bound.**

Reviewed by: Jeanine Pfahlert, Macomb Community College, Warren, Michigan

*Transnational Policing and Sex Trafficking in Southeast Europe: Policing the Imperialist Chain* introduces a new conceptual framework into the discourse on trafficking in Southeast Europe and its associated interactions with law enforcement. This book focuses on the real life construction of the concept "transnational policing." The expression describes law enforcement too protean for any single national structure to encompass and the author uses it to refer to interactions *sui generis*. Notably this work thoroughly explicates the history of the academic use of *transnational* into the academic terminology of the 1970s. The major orientation of the book handles this 1970s shift from materialism to postmodernism despite later interest in the perspective of Louis Althusser, an Algerian-born twentieth-century Marxian theorist.

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## Message from the Book Review Editor

WEW is soliciting book reviews from our readers. Below is a list of possible books. If you are interested in reviewing one of these for WEW, please contact me at [Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). We also invite reviews of other recent books, including those from the region that may not be readily available in the U.S. If you plan to travel to the region, please keep an eye out for books that your colleagues and students would like to know about. You could be our next reviewer! If you are interested in reviewing a book that is not on this list, please let me know and we can discuss that.

Sharon A Kowalsky  
[Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu)

[Click here for the list of suggested books for review.](#)



Kristen Ghodsee with Elena Lagadinova (85) and Boris Lagadinov (92), partisans who fought against the Nazi-allied Bulgarian monarchy in World War II (Sofia, Bulgaria, February 2016).

## Member News

If you would like to be included in "Member News," send your accomplishments to [awssnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:awssnewsletter@gmail.com). Please include your affiliation. For articles and books, send full publication information. We are also happy to publish photos from members' travels and research in the region; please include a caption.

**Barbara C. Allen** (La Salle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) announces the publication of a paperback edition of her book, *Alexander Shlyapnikov, 1885-1937: Life of an Old Bolshevik* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016). Shlyapnikov prominently led the Workers' Opposition (1919-21) in calling for the trade unions - as distinct from the Communist Party - to directly realize workers' control over the economy. Arrested during the Great Terror, Shlyapnikov refused to confess. He contested Stalin's and the NKVD's image of the ideal party member. More information can be found at: <http://www.haymarketbooks.org/pb/Alexander-Shlyapnikov-1885-1937>.

**Lisa Kirschenbaum** (West Chester University) announces that she, Choi Chatterjee (Cal State University, Los Angeles), and Deborah A. Field (Adrian College) have published *Russia's Long Twentieth Century: Voices, Memories, Contested Perspectives* (Routledge, May 2016). The textbook situates modern Russia in the context of world history. Instructors may request a complimentary e-inspection copy.

**Maria Lafont** (Paris, France) has published *The Strange Comrade Balabanoff: The Life of a Communist Rebel* (McFarland Publishers, April 2016). "Born in 1878 to a wealthy Ukrainian family, Angelica Balabanoff became one of the leading female socialists of the early 20th century. Returning to Russia at the beginning of the October Revolution, she became one of the few women to occupy high-ranking positions within the all-male Bolshevik government, later fleeing Russia in disagreement with Lenin's politics. She was accused by European and American secret services of promoting communist propaganda, and by the Soviets of disloyalty. She died in Rome at the age 96. During her nomadic life, state and police agencies in the countries she visited compiled documents on her. The author draws on this extensive, scattered archive in this first biography of Balabanoff." For more information, see: [www.morethanred.com](http://www.morethanred.com)

**Natalie McCauley** (University of Michigan) was recently awarded the Susan Lipschutz Award for women Ph.D. students at the University of Michigan for "promoting the success of women in the academic community."

**Holly Porteous** (Swansea University & University of Glasgow) announces the publication of her article, "From Barbie to the oligarch's wife: Reading fantasy femininity and globalisation in post-Soviet Russian women's magazines," *European Journal of Cultural Studies*. Published online before print April 13,

**Christian Raffensperger** (Wittenberg University) published *Ties of Kinship: Genealogy and Dynastic Marriage in Kyivan Rus'* (Harvard University Press, 2016). His book addresses the overlooked role of women in history. While tracing genealogies and dynastic marriages, he provides anecdotes that showcase women as more than just assets for political alliances. Instead, he highlights how they were directly involved in their communities and the politics of their new kingdoms outside of Rus'. "The most basic part of women's history is including women as part of the narrative," Raffensperger said. "The larger issue is exemplifying how important women were to medieval history as a counter to the male-centric history that has been written for so long. In this case, I place the emphasis on the role that these women play as ambassadors of Rus', guarantors of treaties, and advocates for their natal families." For additional information, see: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9781932650136&content=bios>

**Rochelle G. Ruthchild** (Executive Producer, "Left on Pearl," [www.leftonpearl.org](http://www.leftonpearl.org)) has published suggested readings for the next U.S. President in: "Recommended Reading for the Next President," *Women's Review of Books*, vol. 33, no. 2 (March/April 2016): 22; and a review essay, "Telling Russia's Herstory: Melanie Ilic, *Life Stories of Soviet Women: The Interwar Generation*, Marianna Muravyeva and Natalia Novikova, eds., *Women's History in Russia: (Re)Establishing the Field*, Francesca Stella, *Lesbian Lives in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia*," *Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History*, vol. 10 (2016).

**Olga Sasunkevich** (European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania) has published *Informal Trade, Gender and the Border Experience: from Political Borders to Social Boundaries*, Border Regions Series (Farnham, Burlington: Ashgate, 2015). As she notes, this monograph "reconstructs the daily life history of the Belarus-Lithuania borderland after the collapse of the Soviet Union through the eyes of women involved into cross-border trading activities. It considers how political borders implement and/or intensify social boundaries and suggests that the selective openness of political borders, a prerequisite for the existence of female shuttle trade activities, is primarily built upon people's social characteristics. However, it claims that what can be seen as the grounds for growing inequality at a global level, at a local one may have an important resourceful meaning for various social groups including those usually perceived as disadvantaged, such as widowed female retirees or unemployed single women with children." More information can be found [here](#). (<http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472462213>)

**Laurie Stoff** (Arizona State University) writes that her second book, *Russia's Sisters of Mercy and the Great War: More Than Binding Men's Wounds* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2015) "was just published, exploring the experiences of wartime nurses in Russia during the First World War. Although the female nurse has been a fixture in modern warfare, she is often overlooked. The nurse's role was especially important in World War I, when thousands of female medical personnel were required for the treatment of millions of soldiers and civilians. In Russia, nurses were indispensable to the war effort, serving on the front lines and often assuming public leadership roles. These nurses, far from merely binding wounds, provided vital services that put them squarely in traditionally masculine territory, both literally and figuratively." More information is available [here](https://kuecprd.ku.edu/~upress/cgi-bin/series/978-0-7006-2125-5.html). <https://kuecprd.ku.edu/~upress/cgi-bin/series/978-0-7006-2125-5.html>

**Svetlana Tomić** (Alfa University, Belgrade, Serbia) has published two books which she edited with the Introduction and Chronology on Natalija Obrenović (1859-1941), the first Serbian Queen of the new era: *Dragutin Ilić Roman kraljice Natalije* (Beograd: Sluzbeni glasnik 2015) and *Kraljica Natalija Ruza i trnje* - together with ljubinka Trgovčević and Ivana Hadzi-Popović (Beograd: Laguna 2015).