

Women East-West

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☞ *Mail-in new membership /
renewal forms are available in
every issue of WEW.*

AWSS SPRING NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWSS 2009 elections: The AWSS Board welcomes the following newly-elected board members: **Patricia Herlihy** (Professor Emeritus, History, Brown University; Louise Wyant Professor, Emmanuel College; and Adjunct Professor, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University) and **Sarah Phillips** (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University), as well as our graduate representative **Anastasia Kayiotos** (PhD candidate, Slavic Literature, UC Berkeley). **Adele Lindenmeyr** (Professor of History, Villanova University) takes over as Vice President/President Elect, as **Maria Bucur** (John W. Hill Chair of European History and Associate Professor, Department of History, Indiana University) assumes the helm as AWSS president.

AWSS on the Web: Our website has been substantially revamped with updated and expanded information about the organization. Highlights include links to past AWSS award winners and submission information for 2009 prizes (see also p. 2 of this issue); we'll also be adding past issues of WEW in PDF format: <http://www.awsshome.org>.

Secretary-Treasurer Kris Groberg has also brought AWSS into the 21st century with a presence on Facebook. Anyone with a Facebook account may join; search "Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS)."

4th Biennial AWSS Conference: Our 4th biennial conference, "Gender, Citizenship, and Empire" will be held in conjunction with the Midwest Slavic Conference at The Ohio State University, April 16-18th. A preliminary program is available on the AWSS website; a full program and conference notes will appear in the summer issue of *WEW*.

2009 AWSS Prize Call for Submissions: AWSS is already accepting submissions for the 2009 AWSS awards. Note that this year's awards include our two biennial prizes: the Heldt Prize for Best Translation in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's and Gender Studies, and the Graduate Research Prize. See p. 2 of this issue of *WEW* or our website for submission information and deadlines.

AWSS Travel Grants - We need your help! The AWSS has established a small fund to assist scholars from the areas which we study to travel to international conferences. A number of these scholars who will be approved for participation on panels and roundtables simply will not be able to travel to AWSS in Boston this year without financial assistance larger than what we have provided in the past, because of visa, hotel and air travel expenses.

Continued on next page

We realize that these are difficult financial times, but if you can, please send your checks to: Dr. Kris Groberg, 324D Department of Visual Arts, NDSU Downtown Campus, 650 NP Avenue, Fargo, ND 58102

And please remember to renew or begin your annual memberships in AWSS. Continuing membership is the critical support that AWSS needs to both grow and develop programs such as our support for research, writing and scholarship in women's and gender studies and for colleagues who otherwise would not be able to attend conferences and present their research.

—Rochelle Ruthchild, Martha Kuchar, Maria Bucur, Kris Groberg

☞ 2009 AWSS GRANTS AND PRIZES

AWSS TRAVEL GRANTS

Deadline: May 20th, 2009

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies is offering Travel Grants to scholars from the former Soviet Union and Soviet bloc countries to help support research or conference travel. Conference or research topics must be related to the mission of the AWSS, to encourage women's studies and support women scholars. If you are interested in applying, please send the following information to Rochelle Ruthchild, Committee Chair, at: ruthchil@yahoo.com by May 20th, 2009:

- Name
- Address
- Phone numbers
- Email address
- Name and Dates of the conference you wish to attend
- Title and a short (no more than 500 words) abstract in English of your paper
- A budget showing the total cost of your travel and the amount you are requesting.

2009 HELDT PRIZES

Deadline: May 1st, 2009

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies invites nominations for the 2009 competition for the Heldt Prizes, awarded for works of scholarship and translation. To be eligible for nomination, all books and articles for the first three prize categories must be published between 15 April 2008 and 15 April 2009. The publication dates for the translation prize, which is offered every other year, are 1 June 2007 to 15 April 2009.

1. Best book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian gender and women's studies;
2. Best article in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian gender and women's studies;
3. Best book by a woman in any area of Slavic/East European/Eurasian studies.
4. Best translation in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian gender and women's studies.

One may nominate works in more than one category, and more than one item in each category. Articles included in collections will be considered for the "best article" prize only if they are individually nominated. The prizes will be awarded at the AWSS meeting at the AAASS National Convention in Boston in November 2009.

To nominate any work, please send or request that the publisher send one copy to *each of the four members* of the Prize committee by May 1st, 2009.

Adele Lindenmeyr, Professor of History
Heldt Prize Committee chairperson
Department of History
Villanova University
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085

Kristen Ghodsee
Associate Professor, Gender and Women's Studies
Bowdoin College
7100 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011

Eliot Borenstein
 Professor, Russian & Slavic Studies
 Director, Morse Academic Plan
 New York University
 100 Washington Square East, 903D
 New York, NY 10003

Carol Avins
 Professor of Russian
 Rutgers University
 739 S. Highland Avenue
 Merion Station, PA 19066

AWSS GRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE

Deadline: September 1st, 2009

The Graduate Essay Prize will be awarded to the best dissertation chapter or article-length essay 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 or Gender Studies written by a woman or a man. This competition is open only to current doctoral students or to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2008-2009. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2008-2009. 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 pages, including reference matter, and in English (quoted text in any other language should be translated). The award carries a cash prize of \$250; the winner will be announced at the AAASS national convention in November.

Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the three members of the Prize Committee postmarked no later than *September 1st, 2009*:

Prof. Margaret Beissinger
 Department of Slavic Languages
 249 East Pyne
 Princeton University
 Princeton, NJ 08544

Dr. Dunja Popovic
 86 Buckingham St. #4
 Cambridge, MA 02138

Prof. Cathy Frierson
 7 Charland Terrace
 Waterville, ME 04901

AWSS GRADUATE RESEARCH PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT

Deadline: September 1st, 2009

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) is currently seeking nominations for the 2009 Graduate Research Prize. The Prize is awarded biennially to fund promising graduate level research in any field of Slavic/East European/Central Asian studies by a woman *or* on a topic in S/EE/CA Women's or Gender Studies 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 dissertation, as well as travel, services, and/or materials. The award carries a cash prize of \$1,000. 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 1st, 2009 by the committee chairperson, Nicole Monnier at monniern@missouri.edu. (Recommendation writers may send their letters as emails OR as email attachments.)

AWSS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Deadline: September 15th, 2009

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 nominate, please 1) write a letter detailing what your candidate for this award has achieved in Slavic Studies in terms of a) scholarship or other professional accomplishment and b) mentoring of female students/colleagues; 2) provide a short list of references with accompanying email addresses so that the committee can contact these referees discreetly for further information. We'd recommend that this list include both peers and students/staff.

Continued on next page

Please email your letter and list *by September 15th, 2009* to Maria Bucur at: mbucur@indiana.edu (chair); Margaret Beissinger at: mhbeissi@Princeton.edu; and Adele Lindenmeyr at: adele.lindenmeyr@villanova.edu.

2009 ZIRIN AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Deadline: September 1st, 2009

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies announces the annual competition for the Mary Zirin Prize. The award of \$500 is named for Mary Zirin, the founder of *Women East-West*. Working as an independent scholar, Zirin produced or encouraged, fundamental works in Slavic/East European Women's Studies and has been instrumental in the development of the AWSS. The Prize aims to recognize the achievements of independent scholars and to encourage their continued scholarship and service in the fields of Slavic or Central and Eastern European Women's Studies.

The Zirin Prize Committee will accept nominations (including self-nominations) until *September 1st, 2009*. Nominations should be no more than two-pages double-spaced plus the CV of the person nominated and must include consideration of the scholar's contribution to the field as well as work in progress. The candidate's major publications and supporting reviews should be submitted as well.

The Committee urges the nomination of candidates at all career stages. For the purpose of this award, an independent scholar is defined as a scholar who is not employed at an institution of higher learning or an employee of a university or college who is not eligible to compete for institutional support for research (for example, those teaching under short-term contracts or working in administrative posts). We welcome nominations from CIS and Central and Eastern Europe.

Nominations should be sent to Irina Livezeanu at irinal@pitt.edu, or via fax to 412-648-9074, or by postal mail to the Department of History, 3520 Posvar Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.



• Book Review •

Empowering Women in Russia Activism, Aid, and NGOs. By Julie Hemment. New Anthropologies of Europe. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007. xv. 188 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Photographs. \$22.95, paper.

Julie Hemment's detailed portrayal of the group *Zhenskii svet* describes the challenges faced by women's rights organizations from the period of the mid 1990s to the withdrawal of much foreign funding around 2001. Hemment uses the intricate detail of her interactions with Tver'-based *Zhenskii svet* and with the representatives of many foreign NGOs and Russian "third sector" organizations to demonstrate ideological, bureaucratic, cultural, and political challenges faced by those who wanted to create a women's support organization in the days following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the mid 1990s, a number of agencies, particularly nongovernmental organizations, flocked to Russia to support grass-roots movements consistent with their funders' ideologies. Many new Russian women's rights organizations sprang up through the assistance of these funding opportunities, but their longevity was often challenged due to their dependence upon foreign funds. In addition, Hemment's commentary reveals a plethora of internal obstacles facing

these women's groups, from a widespread societal failure to conceptualize "women's" questions as relevant to the constant battle with a hierarchy of elites, who, in many cases, managed to survive the communist collapse by metamorphosing into bureaucrats with new "appropriate" political stances.

Hemment utilizes a particularly engaging research method for understanding the personal interactions of women in *Zhenskii svet* – that of action research. It pitted her, the anthropologist, as not just an observer, but also as a participant in the process of changing *Zhenskii svet's* stance on utilizing foundations and organizations for funding. Hemment spent months at the beginning of her research in observing and understanding the climate of Russian women's movements. Her many related conversations about such issues enrich the narrative of the work and provide insight into ideological issues. For example, the average Russian woman of the post-Soviet era had difficulty in comprehending the notion of "gender" as a compelling force for political and social mobilization. Perhaps most striking and most familiar to anyone traveling in Russia in the mid 1990s was the disparity between lofty ideals of bettering women's lives and the stark poverty that had consumed even former Soviet professionals. Furthermore,

the “help” of the interceding foreign NGOs was often viewed, even by feminist organizers, as one-sided and lacking in any respect for indigenous viewpoints.

Hemment traces the evolution of two specific projects that grew out of the work of *Zhenskii svet*, the development of the Crisis Center and the Center for Women’s History and Gender Studies. She took an active role in submitting grant applications for the Crisis Center and in working with the city government in Tver’ to obtain office space for them. Though both the Center for Women’s History and the Crisis Center successfully began operations in 1998, the Crisis Center encountered more difficulty in establishing itself, ultimately closing in December of 2003. Interestingly, both Valentina Uspenskaia, head of the Center for Women’s History, and Oktiabrina

Cheremovskaia, head of the Crisis Center, initially held strong ideological opposition to tying their leadership too closely to foundation funding. Eventually both chose to support their work through grant proposals to NGOs, but not without recognizing the many pitfalls therein.

Hemment’s work, which should be read by academics, upper-level college students, and activists, would be enhanced by some discussion of how representative the experiences of *Zhenskii svet* were compared to other Russian women’s groups of the time period. Nonetheless, it provides rich detail and insightful analysis of the problems facing Russian women organizers at a critical juncture in their history.

–Rhonda L. Clark, Clarion University 🐾

News of Members

Submissions for “News of Members” for the next WEW should be sent to monniern@missouri.edu by June 15th

Christine Ruane (History, University of Tulsa) was promoted to full professor in the fall. Her lavishly illustrated book, *The Empire’s New Clothes: A History of the Russian Fashion Industry, 1700-1917*, has just been published by Yale University Press (April 2009).



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YUGOSLAVIA AND ITS SUCCESSOR STATES

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like an announcement or query to be posted in the next issue of WEW, please send your text to monniern@missouri.edu by June 15th.



CFP: Dilemmas of Visibility: Post-Socialist Sexualities (essay collection)

The democratic changes in post-socialist Europe have provided various opportunities for making sexual minorities visible; yet, their general recognition is still fraught with contradictions. Although the fall of communism marked the end of state censorship, subtle forms of political and social control have emerged to marginalize or even silence public expressions of non-heterosexual identities and self-definitions. While some coverage of gay, lesbian and transsexual lifestyles is present in the mainstream media, the often sensational representations reinforce rather than counter a prevailing heterosexist prejudice. In fact, the post-socialist sexual landscape is characterized by the scarcity of politically sound public discussions of non-heteronormative sexual and gender identities and continuing hostile public reactions against sexual minorities.

Our aim in this essay collection is twofold. On the one hand, we intend to reflect on the ways in which sexual minorities are made visible in post-socialist Europe. What concern us here are the contradictions embedded in the visibility of sexual differences and 'new' forms of femininities and masculinities. What sexualities and

genders have garnered attention and what identities are suppressed in post-socialist mainstream cultures? What forms of sexuality and gender invite aggression, phobia, and public scapegoating? On the other hand, the mainstream reactions provoke us to examine what forms of resistance, opposition, and activism have come into being to challenge and repoliticize prevailing heterosexist notions of gender and sexuality. Thus, we are interested in what kinds of visibility politics have been shaping and prove effective to counter sensationalized or hostile public reactions against sexual minorities in post-socialist Europe. In order to map out the various forces that define the post-socialist sexual landscape, we invite proposals that consider the visibility of post-socialist sexualities in relation to both mainstream sexual politics and strategies of resistance and opposition.

Our overall hope is that the essay collection will provide fruitful ground for a comprehensive theorizing of post-socialist sexual politics and their specific cultural parameters. We are interested in expanding on existing feminist and queer theoretical interventions in visibility politics through negotiating Western feminist and queer agendas and those of post-socialist realities. To this end, we welcome papers that use comparative as well as interdisciplinary methodologies. Papers may cover (but are not limited to) various cultural and epistemological fields including literature, theatre and performance arts, film, photography, media (including new media), popular culture, publication and publicity, education, and non-governmental organizations within and across national borders.

Please email proposals (500 word abstracts) by 27 April 2009 to Narcisz Fejes (Case Western Reserve University) narcisz.fejes@gmail.com and Andrea P. Balogh (University of Szeged) andrea.pbalogh@gmail.com.

CFP: European Social Science History Conference (Gender and Women Network)

Ghent, Belgium, April 13-16, 2010

The European Social Science History Conference (ESSCH) is the largest Europe based conference for historians and social scientists in all fields, gathering more than 1000 participants every second year. The next European Social Science History Conference will take place in Ghent, Belgium, from the 13th to the 16th of April 2010. The Gender and Women Network is one of the largest networks of the ESSCH. Seventeen sessions are scheduled for the next conference.

We would like invite all scholars working in this field to consider applying with a paper, a panel or a roundtable proposal for this conference. Please register your proposal at <http://www.iisg.nl/esshc/>. The deadline for submission is 1 May 2009.

Below you will find a list of possible themes, but these are by no means meant as limiting. On the contrary, feel free to suggest other themes (NB! for all themes we especially appreciate panels that bring together perspectives from different national/regional contexts).

- Gender and body politics (war mass rape, sterilizations, human rights, etc...)
- The impact of post structuralism on women's and gender history and social sciences.
- Feminisms (transnational and international organizing, transfer of ideas, the Women's Movement of the 1970's, etc...)
- Feminism and Communism (everyday life and gender under communist regimes, feminists and communism, Marxist feminism, etc...)
- Gender and labor (the impact of the new global division of work and of the new organization of work, gender and suffering at work, etc...)
- Imperial feminisms
- Theory and historiography
- Gender /memory/public history
- Masculinities
- Prominent recent books in the field ('meet the author' sessions)

We specially welcome contributions dealing with Latin America, East-Central- and South East Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

The coordinators of the Women and Gender network are Maria Bucur, Indiana University, USA, mbucur@indiana.edu and Elisabeth Elgan, Södertörn University, Sweden, elisabeth.elgan@sh.se

CFP: Conference: "Central Europe 1989: Lessons and Legacies"

Lawrence, KS, October 16-19, 2009

As part of a semester-long commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of Communism in East Central Europe, the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Kansas announces a conference, "Central Europe 1989: Lessons and Legacies," to be held in Lawrence, KS, October 16-18, 2009. We invite 250-word abstracts dealing with the question of transition and change in Central Europe as it relates to discourses, narratives, myths of identity in a variety of areas, including but not exclusively culture, literature and film, gender, ethnicity, civil and state structures, environment, economy. Historical and political contextualizations of the "Turn" are also welcome. Possible topics include:

- meanings of revolution (society, arts, science, technology, environment, etc.)
- transition (and its discontents)
- myths of identity
- discourses of change
- thinking and rethinking history
- (re)defining Central Europe
- stocktaking on the transition
- structures of political change
- institutional design

Please email your abstract by May 1, 2009, to: crees@ku.edu (and put "CE1989" in the subject line), or mail to: CE1989, CREES, University of Kansas, 320 Bailey Hall, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS 66045.

Call for manuscripts: PIASA Books

PIASA Books, the publishing arm of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences of America, is seeking scholarly manuscripts in English on any aspect of Polish literature, history, or culture. We are particularly interested in hearing from Polonists whose projects have been rejected by other publishers as too nationally narrow. Please send queries to the new series editor, Kathleen Cioffi, at piasabooks@thepolishreview.org.

CFP: 34th European Studies Conference

University of Nebraska-Omaha, October 1-3, 2009

The 34th European Studies Conference, which will be held at the University of Nebraska-Omaha on October 1-3, 2009,

welcomes papers on European topics in all disciplines. Founded in 1975, our interdisciplinary conference has drawn participants from colleges and universities in the United States and from abroad. Areas of interest have been: art, anthropology, history, literature, current issues and future prospects in cultural, political, social, economic, or military areas; education, business, international affairs, religion, foreign languages, philosophy, information sciences and technology, public administration, urban affairs, public health, music, geography, theater, and film.

Deadline for abstracts is May 15, 2009. Please send your abstract of approximately 250 words to: European Studies Conference, Department of Foreign Languages ASH 301, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0192. We encourage submission via e-mail: tnovikov@mail.unomaha.edu. Please include your name, full address, institution affiliation, day telephone, fax and email address with the proposal.

Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate. More information: www.unomaha.edu/esc.

CFP: "Gender and the City" for *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*

This special issue of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* will explore reciprocal relationships between gender and the city. For many decades feminist scholars in numerous and diverse fields have studied the importance of gender in constituting cities and the role of urban places in constructing gender. We want to develop a vigorous cross and inter-disciplinary conversation about these relationships of gender and the city. We therefore call for papers and creative works that analyze urban political, social, economic, and cultural experiences, institutions, and representations; the urban environment, including interior and exterior spatial arrangements and architecture; and the role of women in this dynamic relationship of gender and the urban.

An inter- and multidisciplinary journal, *Frontiers* welcomes submissions of creative works such as artwork, fiction, and poetry, as well as scholarly papers. Works must be original, and not published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. We encourage those interested in contributing to the special issue to email the guest editors Maureen A. Flanagan (Department of History, Michigan State University, flanaga6@msu.edu) and Maryann Valiulis (Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, mvaliulis@tcd.ie).

Submissions should be sent by August 15, 2009 to Frontiers

as email attachments to frontiers@asu.edu or on disc according to submission guidelines at <http://www.asu.edu/clas/history/frontiers/submit.html>. Author names should not appear on the manuscript; list contact information separately.

CFP: Conference: Study Group on the Russian Revolution

Queen's University, Belfast, January 2-4, 2010.

The annual conference of the Study Group on the Russian Revolution will be held at Queen's University, Belfast on 2-4 January 2010. Papers on any topic related to the revolution, covering any period from the 1870s to the 1930s, are welcome. We encourage post-graduate participation at our conference. Post-graduates may contribute full papers or give a brief presentation on their research projects. Those attending will be eligible to apply to the Study Group for a subsidy of some of their conference costs if they are unable to obtain other funding.

Please email your paper proposal by June 30, 2009, to the conference organizer, Dr Katy Turton, at k.turton@qub.ac.uk. Our website can be found at: <http://www.basees.org.uk/sgrusrev.shtml>.

Call for submissions: Society for Romanian Studies Graduate Student Essay Prize

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce a new Graduate Student Essay Prize competition for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter written in English by a graduate student in any social science or humanities discipline on a Romanian subject. The 2009 prize, consisting of \$300 will be presented at the AAASS Convention in Boston.

Student must be enrolled at or have graduated from an institution of higher learning in North America. The competition is open to current M.A. and doctoral students or to those who defended dissertations in 2008-2009. If a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2007 through 2009. If a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Essays/chapters should be 25-50 pages double spaced, including reference matter. Expanded versions of conference papers are also acceptable if accompanied by a description of the panel and by the candidate's conference paper proposal. Candidates must clearly indicate the format of the essay submitted. A current CV must be appended. *Submissions should be sent in duplicate by July 1, 2009* to Paul E. Michelson, Society for Romanian Studies, Huntington University, Huntington IN 46750 or in electronic format (.doc or pdf) to pmichelson@huntington.edu.

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You may join the association and receive *WEW* and all AWSS mailings by sending \$30 (\$10 for students and the under-employed; \$5 extra for joint memberships; all checks made out to AWSS) to the Secretary-Treasurer, Kris Groberg (Dr. Kris Groberg, 324D Department of Visual Arts, NDSU Downtown Campus, 650 NP Avenue, Fargo, ND 58102 Email: kristi.groberg@ndsu.edu). Those outside the US and Canada may enroll in AWSS as Associates Abroad for \$10 a year; gift subscriptions for people interested in the FSU-C/EE are encouraged. Some back copies are available at \$3.

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