

Women East-West

Issue Number 91

Summer 2007

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Contents

<i>AWSS conference 2007</i> 1-3, 6-7
<i>Mentoring Column</i>4-5
<i>Book Reviews</i>8-10
<i>News of Members</i> 10
<i>Bibliography</i>11-25
<i>Announcements</i>25-30
<i>Membership form</i>31

“Beyond *Little Vera*: Women’s Bodies, Women’s Welfare in Russia and Central/Eastern Europe”

April 26-27, 2007

Sponsored by the following offices and programs of The Ohio State University entities: Office of International Affairs; Center for Slavic and East European Studies; Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures; Department of Women’s Studies; College of Arts and Sciences; Institute on Women, Gender, and Public Policy; and Women in Development

The 3rd Biennial Conference of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies focused on discussions of new research on women’s health and welfare in Russia and Central/Eastern Europe since 1990. From a variety of disciplinary, theoretical and methodological approaches, participants considered the changing social, cultural and political situations in this important part of contemporary Europe and their impact on women. “Beyond *Little Vera*” followed up on recent conferences addressing trafficking of women in these parts of the world, but expanded that focus to a more general consideration of the treatment and representation of women’s bodies and welfare. Crises in women’s treatment and exploitation in Russia and Central/Eastern Europe have perhaps never been more acute, given the now more entrenched negative impact of the market and “globalization” in this area. Scholarly exchange on these issues was thus more than merely academic, and the cross-disciplinary conversations that emerged may have an effect on policy both in the U.S. and abroad.

Using a multi- and inter-disciplinary approach to women’s health issues – from domestic relations to sex education, from prison conditions to artistic representations – the conference explored the wide-ranging implications of the collapse of social networks and government structures in the former Communist bloc countries.

PANELS AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Thursday, April 26

Panel 1: Women’s Welfare, Women’s Place: Nineteenth-Century Perspectives
Chair: Natasha Kolchevska (University of New Mexico)

Michelle DenBeste (Cal State Fresno): “The Pursuit of a Degree: Educating Female Physicians in Late Imperial Russia”

DenBeste argued that women physicians in late imperial Russia should not merely

Continued on p. 2

be studied as revolutionaries; they are an example of professionalization and career making. Giving examples of numerous women doctors, DenBeste demonstrated that such women were not merely political, although many of them desired to improve the lives of ordinary people. Their professional voice and training, she argued, gave them a voice in fora outside political and even medical structures.

Dáša Frančíková (University of Michigan): “All Patriots, but Particularly Women... Education on the Reproduction of the Nation: The Czech National Movement in 1850”

In a close reading of an article by Czech patriot and doctor Špott from 1850, Frančíková described the program Špott outlined for recreating the Czech nation through marriage and reproduction. Although the article did not generate a public reaction, Špott’s ideas presented a fascinating gendered guide, placing the responsibility for the survival/revival of the Czech nation on women and their healthy marital and reproductive behavior.

Kristin Collins (Ohio State): “Bride Capture in Nineteenth Century Georgia: Crime or Tradition?”

Using a case study of an abducted 10-year-old bride from Tiflis, Georgia in 1846, Collins constructed an argument about the intersection of Caucasian and Russian traditional and official cultures in the mid-19th century. She argued that traditional behaviors of native peoples had to change with the advent of Russian law in the area.

Panel 2: Remembrance of Socialism Past: Lost Comforts, Abiding Stereotypes

Chair: Angela Brintlinger (Ohio State)

Basia Nowak (Ohio State): “There Is Nowhere to Turn Today: Nostalgia for a Socialist Past”

In a study of the League of Women in Poland after the transition from Socialism, Nowak explored how these women members of the league reminisced about their past. The data themselves are interesting, but Nowak drew further conclusions about the ways in which past and present are interconnected. Memories are fragile, she explained, and while the past affects the present, it is equally true that the present affects the past.

Jenny Kaminer (Oberlin College): “The ‘Angelic Little Image’ Falls from Grace: *Rebro Adama* and the Reimagining of Maternity”

The 1990 Russian film *Adam’s Rib* represents a remake of a 1986 novella, *House of Women*, by Anatoly Kurchatkin. In her paper Kaminer argued that the novelistic version of the story demonstrates the positive nature of the female bonds between generations, although everyday life (*byt*) makes the lives of women difficult. In the film version of the story, the grandmother is configured as malevolent and tyrannical. Ultimately Kaminer sees the traditional cult of maternity as being under siege in these texts and asked whether maternity can neutralize social and political instability.

Jane Gary Harris (University of Pittsburgh): “Representations of Aging and the Elderly in Contemporary Russian Prose”

In an act of “cultural gerontology,” Harris explored the representation of aging in Russian prose throughout the latter part of the 20th century, arguing that there are some contrasts between the portrayal of elderly women and men, but perhaps a stronger contrast remains from the traditional young/aged binary model of Russian culture. Examples of parameters for comparison included fantasy as a coping mechanism for the problems of aging (in women); the death bed scene of life in review; the theme of friendship (in women and men); the changes in traditional roles, particularly caregiving. Harris put forward the thesis that the elderly are expected to behave in a passive manner, but also gave examples of aggressive behaviors.

Panel 3: Women in the Ward: Doctors, Patients, and Those at Risk

Chair: Jill Bystydzienski (Ohio State)

Lestaw Niebrój (Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland): “Feminization and Prestige in the Medical Profession: A Polish-Czech Comparison”

Citing a 100-year-old slogan (“Begone from Poland the monstrosity of the Woman-Doctor!”), Niebrój described a

situation in Poland and the Czech Republic today where women represent 55% of doctors. In the segregation of specialties, as he described it, just as in Germany, the U.S., and Israel, in Poland and the Czech Republic the most prestigious specialties are those occupied by men, including surgery and internal medicine. What Niebrój terms “horizontal segregation” leaves women doctors engaged in more patient-focused work, while male doctors are more likely to be engaged in scientific and/or administrative work.

Emilia Hrešanová (University of West Bohemia, Plzeň, Czech Republic): “The Commercialization of Maternity Care, Consumerism and Emerging Social Inequalities among Parturient Women in the Czech Republic”

In a study of two small, provincial maternity hospitals, Hrešanová explored the relationship between socio-economic status and reproductive health. Building on her ethnographic research she found out that her participants—midwives and obstetricians—see a particular group of women who are better off to have more “difficult” births than women who have lower SES. This, however, contradicts many known theories about the relationship between SES and health.

Kamilla Bargiel-Matusiewicz and Agnieszka Wilczyńska-Kwiatek (Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland): “Women’s Unemployment in Poland and its Consequences for Psychic Health”

Bargiel-Matusiewicz and Wilczyńska-Kwiatek described a project through the foundation “Domain of Development” (www.domenarozwoju.pl) that offers vocational and psychological counseling for Polish women suffering from the high unemployment rates in Poland (an 89% increase among women since 1989). At present, approximately 8.7 million women (60% of the total unemployed) lack employment. The vocational guidance project includes individual and group sessions with a goal of endowing participants with the skills both to get a job and also to cope with failure and crisis when they occur. The unemployed persons taking part in the project become more aware of their strengths and are able to plan vocational development with full awareness of their skills. An awareness of their own worth also facilitates satisfactory human relations, the researchers reported, and helps the participants become more assertive and to express their emotions in a constructive way.

Panel 4: Hard Time: Addiction, Abuse, Rehabilitation

Chair: Stella Resko (Ohio State)

Maureen Murney (University of Toronto): “(In)authentic Femininity and Alcohol Addiction in Western Ukraine”

Based on 13 months of ethnographic research ending in October 2005, this paper described the relationship between the discourses of ‘normative’ and ‘deviant’ behavior (as defined locally); health-seeking practices; and the daily lived experiences of alcohol-dependent men and women in Lviv, Ukraine. Murney described the complexity of working with institutions (such as narcology hospitals and clinics), of finding self-identifying women alcoholics to interview, and of the various alternative treatments available to alcoholics in Ukraine (from herbal remedies, hypnosis therapy and Christian sorcerers to “modern” peer support groups such as AA). Murney concluded that, in accord with discourses about a return to ‘traditional’ values, women are expected to serve as protectors of both family and nation, thus their individual problems with alcoholism come to symbolize an abandonment of the nationalist project.

Teresa Polowy (University of Arizona): “The Female Face of Violence: Russian Culture and Violence against Women”

Since Polowy’s planned paper is due out soon in the volume *Times of Trouble: Violence in Russian Literature and Culture* (U Wisconsin P, December 2007), she did not read her paper, instead choosing to respond to Maureen Murney’s paper and speaking about her own long-term project focused on Russian men and women authors who write about alcoholism. Generally speaking, women drinkers are portrayed negatively in Russian literature written by men, whereas in literary texts written by women, the women drinkers receive a deeper, closer, more compassionate look. Polowy did not go so far as to say that these were *positive* portrayals, but rather suggested that women portray women drinkers as *outside the norm* and sometimes romanticize them as being on the edge of rebellion.

Marianna Klochko (Ohio State): “Individual Time Preferences in Prison Population: The Effects of Rehabilitation Programs on Women vs. Men in Ukraine”

In her presentation, Klochko talked about “time discounting,” explaining that deviant behavior is affected by a desire

Continued on page 6

Mentoring Column

To “Vice Alley” and Back: An Administrator’s Tale

Denise Youngblood is Professor of History and interim department chair at the University of Vermont. She has served on the AAASS Committee on the Status of Women and the AHA Professional Division and is currently a member of the Mentoring Advisory Council at UVM. In this issue’s mentoring column, Denise recounts the unexpected challenges (and occasional rewards) of her first foray into university administration beyond the departmental level.

I’ve witnessed—and worked for—many changes for women in academe since I entered Stanford’s doctoral program in history in 1974. Like many women my age (55), I’ve been a “first” or an “only” more times than I care to remember. I was the only woman in the University of Vermont Department of History when I joined it in 1988; the first and only woman to be promoted to full professor of history; the first and only woman to serve as chair, etc. The most difficult challenges I’ve faced, however, occurred in my two years’ serving in “Vice Alley” (as we dub our central administration), as Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs from 2003 to 2005.

What I’d like to do in this space is to discuss my path to central administration, my successes and conundrums as a vice provost, and the reasons I burned out so quickly. I had thought I was well prepared to maneuver the impediments for women in higher administration, but my sojourn in Vice Alley taught me a great deal more. As universities adopt business models and academic governance becomes more and more professionalized, it’s critical for faculty, especially women, to continue pushing for seats at a table all too frequently dominated by career administrators with backgrounds in law, finance, and marketing. Because there are still relatively few women who can serve as administrative mentors, I hope my experiences, both positive and negative, may offer some guidance to those among you interested in higher education administration.

I knew I’d eventually assume administrative positions at my institution. I like to be in charge (a trait honed early by “bossing” my younger siblings), and I’m good at institutional politicking and navigating bureaucracies (my training as a Soviet specialist helps). My early career path, which was non-traditional, also prepared me well for central administration. After I

received my PhD in 1980, a soft teaching market and family issues kept me in Palo Alto. Fortunately for me, the AAASS moved to Stanford in late 1981, and I was appointed as Assistant to the Executive Director (the estimable Dorothy Atkinson), responsible for a broad array of tasks from newsletter production to convention management. As interesting as this work was, in 1987 I decided to look for a faculty position, as my once bizarre specialty (film) had become a hot topic for historians. I ended up at UVM as an affirmative action hire.

After fourteen years living in another country (northern California), the overt sexism I faced in my department and in the classroom at Vermont came as a genuine shock. I tried to turn adversity into an advantage (although the emotional toll is another story). The members of the small cohort of tenure-track women who came to the university at this time were determined to succeed, not only according to the standard benchmarks, but at a Bolshevik tempo at that, even though some of us had small children. We did twice as much as we needed to do to get tenure; came up for full professor quickly; earned the university’s highest awards for scholarship and teaching at relatively early points in our careers, and so on.

This pattern of overachievement, especially taking a fast track to full professor, was essential to our success as chairs. Although the rank of full professor says little about one’s administrative and leadership skills, it had—and I think still has—a great deal to do with credibility at the college and university level. Serving as chair, a “line” management position that is different from, say, directing a department’s graduate program, is also a necessary step to achieving credibility at higher levels of administration. The chair role offers the opportunity to demonstrate leadership as well as financial and personnel management.

The typical “next step” would be a position as an associate dean before becoming a dean (a transition that most often requires a move to a new institution). I was reluctant to move because my (second) husband is also a tenured professor at UVM; we’re very aware of how fortunate we are. I had served four years as chair and had announced my intentions to step down at the end of the fifth year when the Provost created a new position in his office to supervise all faculty issues, including the university-wide reappointment, tenure, and review process and the administration of the first faculty union contract, in addition to academic issues such as the

university catalogue and academic program review. I was tempted by salary (my son had just started college) and by flattery (colleagues persuaded me that I was the right person for the job). These are not particularly good reasons for a significant career move.

The Provost also thought I was the right person for the job. First, he wanted to hire a woman, because there were few in the central administration. Second, I had significant program review experience, having chaired the Graduate College review of programs in the humanities and social sciences. Third, I possessed unusually detailed knowledge of state regulations and university policies governing faculty appointments, reappointments and tenure. This knowledge came from building a new faculty after 40% of the department took a buyout and from being the lead defendant in a multi-year tenure denial case in which the plaintiff (a woman) accused me of sex discrimination. Fourth—though this I didn't realize at the time—the Provost was counting on my reputation for “frankness,” so that I could play bad cop to his good one. This last point became a serious problem, as he began to retract or modify decisions that we had discussed in detail and that he had fully approved, thereby implying that I had overstepped my authority and undercutting what real power I did have.

There were serious issues from the beginning, most of them outside my control. The President and the Provost did not get along. The President began promoting more people to vice president or associate vice president so that his “side” was more numerous. The two vice provosts—myself and the Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs, an African American woman—were excluded from the so-called “cabinet meetings” and from retreats and social events. The relative importance of faculty and multicultural affairs at the university became clear.

Needless to say, at the many, many meetings to which we *were* invited, our voices were not heard. (This was also true for the woman who became the Vice President for Research shortly after I joined the Provost's Office.) In addition, I faced resistance from the deans, most of them women, who felt that my presence and

responsibilities lessened their authority and access to the Provost. At the time, I thought this reaction reflected unfounded insecurity on their part; now I'm not so sure.

As I became more and more stressed, my worst characteristics came to the forefront. I can be impatient, inflexible, and brusque. I don't particularly like team work, especially when the team is not of my choosing. I hate sitting in meetings for hours, painstakingly parsing words for the umpteenth time while attempting to mask my irritation and boredom. I was often required to make weighty decisions instantly, without necessary reflection and forethought. (I'm decisive, but not *that* decisive.) In short, I have some serious personality deficits for a job that requires consensus building among large and complex constituencies. A diplomat I'm not.

Nevertheless, I can look back on my accomplishments with pride. The union leadership and I successfully established a good working relationship between the new union and the relatively new administration and negotiated a second contract. With the assistance of a wonderful intern from our graduate program in higher education administration, I produced the university's first analysis of faculty retention and promotion by race and gender. I also designed and implemented our first faculty exit interviews and hired a dynamic new director for our faculty mentoring program. Finally, together with the Director of Diversity & Equity, I launched a major overhaul of faculty recruiting procedures, a process that continues.

I am happy to be back to the teaching and research I love. I continue, however, to put the experiences and knowledge that I gained in the Provost's Office to good use both in and outside my department. I am an active mentor of faculty women, which I really enjoy. I have the freedom to write columns like this one. And I successfully negotiated the terms under which I've agreed to serve as interim chair for AY 07-08. I think I'll a better chair this time around.

—Denise Youngblood, University of Vermont



Call for submissions (and suggestions):

“Mentoring” and “Trailblazers: Women in Slavic Studies” columns

Is there an issue we haven't addressed in our “Mentoring” column to date? Would you like to celebrate the accomplishments of one of our illustrious forebearers in the field of Slavic Studies? If you'd like to write a guest column (or suggest a topic), please contact column Angela Brintlinger (brintlinger.3@osu.edu) or general editor Nicole Monnier (monniern@missouri.edu).

AWSS conference, continued from p. 3

for immediate gratification, or a high level of discounting of behavioral consequences. Her work with the Kharkiv Institute of Social Research in summer 2006 had targeted a prison population and the possibility of individual time discounting change. Ideally rehabilitation process should help prisoners to extend their time horizons and start valuing the future, which will help to prevent future deviant behavior. Data analysis showed that in Ukraine the ability to defer gratification is more likely to be exhibited by females, older people, those who receive letters by mail, and those who are single. Contrary to initial expectations time discounting is actually decreased with factors such as spending time in mandatory rehabilitation programs, spending time in prison, writing letters home and not receiving responses, being in prison repeatedly, and being imprisoned for a serious offense.

☛ **Evening keynote speaker: Maria Bucur-Deckard, Indiana University: “Gendering Dissent: Of Bodies and Minds, Survival and Opposition under Communism”**

In her evening keynote address, Maria Bucur-Deckard spoke about the relationship between gender and dissent. Dissent, she argued, is coded masculine, and this reflects a misogynist view of political activism. Bucur suggests that we might explore anti-politics in the private sphere - in the family, the body (such as controlling one's sexuality), and in the retreat from politics, which is also a form of opposition. The task of dissidence in the 1980s, she argues, was to advance the cause of civil society; now, perhaps, a movement for political parity (as in Joan Scott's *Parité*) will spread to the former Communist nations.

Friday, April 27

Panel 5: Trafficking: Realities and Representations

Chair: Yana Hashamova (Ohio State)

Shawna Herzog (Cal State Fresno): “Sex Trafficking: A Gendered Perspective”

In describing a “fourth wave” of trafficked women from the former Soviet Union, Herzog detailed the feminization of poverty in the post-USSR and pointed out that the \$7-9 billion dollar trade in women is the third largest illegal revenue stream in that society. Nadia Shapkina (Georgia State University): “Anti-trafficking Interventions in Russia and Ukraine: Analyzing the Activities of NGOs” Shapkina spoke on anti-trafficking campaigns, focusing on NGO networks such as La Strada in Ukraine and the Angel Coalition in Russia. Striving to create institutional ethnographies, Shapkina discussed education, prevention, and assistance to victims, and commented that Ukraine was quicker to recognize the problem of trafficking than Russia.

Natasha Olshanskaya (Kenyon College): “From Interdevochka to The Spot: Prostitution in Russian Film and Society”

Olshanskaya began her presentation with a quick history of prostitution in Russia, noting that the yearly income earned in the prostitution trade exceeds \$1 billion. She noted that in 2006 72% of Russian citizens disapproved of prostitution, while 88% approved of adultery. As part of her larger project on prostitution in Russian film and society, Olshanskaya discussed three new films: a 20-episode television film set in a Moscow brothel called “Accursed Paradise”; the 2005 film *The Italian*, set in an orphanage and featuring a teenage prostitute not as a martyr or angel, but rather as a child with skills; and the 2006 *The Spot (Tochka)*, a film that demystifies prostitution, in part through the grainy picture that offers the feel of a documentary.

Emily Schuckman (University of Washington): “Lilya-4-Ever or Victim Forever?”

Schuckman looked at two films in her presentation, the 1989 *Interdevochka* and the more recent 2002 *Lilya-4-Ever*, considering the differences between representations of prostitutes versus girls who are trafficked as well as the anxieties of the *glasnost*’ period as opposed to those of the present day. Lilya, she argued, is represented as a martyr and a warning and becomes a symbol of the vulnerable Russian nation.

Panel 6: Negotiating Welfare and Worth in Post-Socialist Societies

Chair: Esther Gottlieb (Ohio State)

Jill Massino (Bowdoin College): “Women, Welfare and the Self in Post-Socialist Romania”

In post-socialist Romania, Massino argues, the transformation of the welfare state has altered the relationship between state and citizen, gender identity, and women’s everyday lives. While some feminist scholars have criticized the welfare state for reinforcing female dependency, in socialist Romania women experienced increased autonomy and, in some respects, an improved standard of living as a result of the benefits and provisions offered under state socialism. With the shift to a market economy, however, many of these benefits have been scaled back or eliminated altogether. This in turn has affected women’s ability to provide for themselves and their families, their self-identities and conception of the state, and their attitudes toward the communist past.

Abby Drwecki (Indiana University): “Playing with Power: Women’s Self-Defense (Dis)Courses in Poland”

Drwecki has been studying the changes in tropes of feminine identity in the post-Communist era through interviewing Wendo trainers in Poland. Wendo is a feminist self-defense technique that originated in Canada and is taught by women for women. In two-day seminars, participants spend 40% of their time on physical aspects of self-defense and 60% on assertiveness training, relaxation techniques, and confidence building. The Wendo trainers emphasize a “science of assertiveness,” teaching the “art of communication” to women.

Martha Bojko (University of Connecticut): “Gender, Sexual Exchange, and Political Economy in post-Soviet Ukraine: Young Women and ‘Realizuvatisia”

On the basis of data collected from 200+ survey subjects in the 18-28 year age group in Uzhgorod, Ukraine, Bojko reported on challenges of education, employment, and gender inequality. Adaptational strategies in post-Soviet times among this cohort include reliance on parents; reliance on social networks; migration; early marriage; sexual exchange; and internet dating.

☛ Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Helena Goscilo, University of Pittsburgh “New Regimens: Women’s Bodies in Post-Soviet Russian Culture”

In her lunch keynote, Goscilo presented an overview of women’s bodies in post-Soviet Russia, arguing that dominant current trends reflect not feminism, but the traditional transformation of women into beautiful commodities. Not professional skills, but the often semi-bared bodies of the media-hyped Russian international tennis stars and models, owners of chic gyms, and Oksana Robski, best-selling author of books documenting the life of the obscenely rich, provide paradigms for young women. Robski, the widow of an oligarch, hosts “For You,” a television lunchtime chat show that offers “aspirational viewing” and purveys advice about attracting and seducing males. Obsessed with physical appearance, many average women reportedly spend 12% of their income on makeup and attend special schools teaching the art of manipulating men. Symptomatically, Ksenia Sobchak, the Russian Paris Hilton, has recently written a book with Robski titled *How to Marry a Millionaire*. Though in an interview Sobchak explained that the book was a send-up, it is being taken seriously in Russia, where numerous contemporary women see marriage to an affluent man as the ultimate goal. Indeed, Robski acquired fame and money through marriage, as did Moscow’s super-wealthy Elena Baburina and Ol’ga Slutzker. Web sites such as www.russiandreamz.com attest to the marketability of young Russian flesh, purchased by older suitors from abroad whose gushing testimonials indicate that they have found the wives of their dreams.

—Conference notes by Angela Brintlinger, The Ohio State University

 **Submission deadline for Fall WEW**

If you would like to submit items to “News of Members” or “General Announcements,” for the Fall issue of *WEW*, please send your items to monniern@missouri.edu by *September 15th*.

BOOK REVIEWS

Editor's Note: I will periodically post new books for review on awss-l or in *WEW*. I also welcome suggestions for appropriate books to add to our list. In keeping with the AWSS mission, books for review should address issues relating to women or gender in Eastern Europe and/or Eurasia. Books will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We ask that reviewers return their reviews within two months of receiving the book and adhere to *WEW* guidelines, which they will receive on agreeing to review.

The following are available for review:

Olga Bembel-Dedok, *Vospominaniya* (Minsk: Propilei, 2006).

Alexandra Bitušíková, *Women in Civic and Political Life in Slovakia* (Banska Bystrica: Research Institute of Matej Bel University, 2005).

Alexandra Harrington, *The Poetry of Anna Akhmatova: Living in Different Mirrors* (London; New York: Anthem Press, 2006).

If you have any comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me (bhemewa@gmail.com).

-Betsy Jones Hemenway, Book Review Editor



Reviews

***Tightrope Walking: A Memoir.* By Josephine Pasternak.**

Edited by Helen Pasternak Ramsay and Rimgaila Salys. Postscript by Rimgaila Salys. Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 2005. xv, 283 pp. Notes. Index. Paper \$29.95.

Josephine Pasternak's interesting, but sometimes rambling, memoir gives the reader a vivid glimpse of the Russian intelligentsia and its interconnectedness. Born in 1900, Josephine was the third of four children of the artist Leonid Pasternak. Boris, the oldest and most famous sibling, is frequently mentioned, especially in her childhood memories of Molodi where the family spent summers. The memoir as a whole provides interesting insights into the personality of Boris Pasternak, his work, interests, and associations.

In the early chapters, Josephine recalls scenes from her childhood in pre-World War I Russia and tells her story as if answering a grandchild's questions. At times the narrative is enchanting and at times tedious. The reminiscences of childhood friends and infatuations could be shortened. Were these years emphasized as a memory of the carefree days before World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and exile abroad? Far more interesting is the section about life in the early years of the Bolshevik regime. Josephine was actually managing comparatively well in the new society but wanted to continue her education abroad.

At twenty-one Josephine left Russia without her

family and started a new life in Berlin. Her parents joined her there, and her father was well accepted as an artist in Berlin. The newly married Boris also lived there for a while. Josephine and her sister studied at the University of Berlin. At 24 she married her much older second cousin, Frederick Pasternak, whom she had always regarded as an uncle. They were attached to each other and married when he was about to transfer to Munich. The memoir covers the early period of their marriage which soon revealed their differences in values and outlook. Josephine quietly resumed her studies in philosophy and obtained a doctor's degree.

The image of a tightrope reflects her view that her life was divided into many parts, and she was trying to balance them all: her life as wife and mother, her life as a scholar, her family in Germany and in the Soviet Union, and all her disparate friendships over the years.

What is most intriguing about the book is Josephine's acute perceptions of people and events as well as the torment she feels in various situations. At times, she is only an observer of things happening to her as well as around her. At other times, she suffers over the plight of her family and friends. During her lifetime she had several episodes of nervous illness, especially after a major loss such as her father's death.

Because of her father and brother, she became acquainted with many famous people from Ilya Ehrenburg to Albert Einstein. As a result, we see new dimensions

of world-famous people with whom she interacted even briefly, both in Russia and in Germany.

Despite a slow start, the work is quite engaging. Especially interesting are her descriptions of the early Soviet period and of Berlin in the 1920s. The memoirs are perhaps most useful for a women's studies course or a history course focused on early twentieth century. It is not intended for a popular audience or for readers without a background in Russian history. The insights on Boris Pasternak may be useful for Pasternak scholars. Rimgaila Salys's lengthy postscript analyzes the work in the context of Russian women's autobiography and underscores the significance of studying women's self-perception of their lives in the context of the larger society in which they live.

—Norma C. Noonan, Augsburg College

***Living Gender after Communism.* Ed. Janet Elise Johnson and Jean C. Robinson.** Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2007. xii, 263 pp. Bibliography. List of Contributors. Index. Photographs. Tables. Cloth \$45.00.

The edited volume *Living Gender after Communism*, which includes works from both established and younger scholars in a variety of disciplines, is an important contribution to the growing literature on women and gender in postcommunist states. The contributors work from a number of disciplines, including political science, art history, sociology, anthropology, and history, and the work is tied together by the common endeavor of exploring the development of gendered identities and discourse in the post-Soviet space.

In their opening chapter, editors Janet Elise Johnson and Jean C. Robinson reflect on the larger changes taking place in gender attitudes and discourse in the region. They assert that under communism, the state "held an almost complete monopoly over the politics of gender construction" and that "the gender politics prevalent under communism never challenged the validity of *gender* difference because it was assumed that all differences flowed "naturally" from the sexual and physical differences between women and men" (7). Moreover, the communist party-state allowed few opportunities for agents to negotiate gender. While careful to note that the transition has not necessarily been "good" for women, Johnson and Robinson suggest that what has occurred is a process of "gender multiplication," whereby the lessening of state control has allowed different gender ideologies to develop, including both neotraditionalism

and several types of feminism.

Tania Rands Lyon, in the article that follows, expands on this assertion through the analysis of interviews collected in Saratov, Russia. Lyon finds that Russian patriarchy is not as entrenched as it appears, and while gender fantasies might suggest the neotraditional roles of sexuality, passivity and the private sphere for women, in fact women are "actively experimenting with the combination of gender models that suits them best." (26) In fact, she asserts that in this period of transition women may have a broader base of gender-roles from which to choose than men, thanks to their mobility as a labor force under communism.

Subsequent articles relate to various ways in which postcommunist women have "embraced different ways of gendering...depending on their particular context of the postcommunist experience." (12) While the articles in the volume are uneven in quality, several stand out as particularly strong. Shannon Woodcock's "Romanian Women's Discourses on Sexual Violence," suggests that women's fear of sexual violence in the public spaces of Bucharest helps construct private space as more appropriate for Romanian women, and that the identity of these imagined attackers (Tigani, or Roma, men) "disavows Romanian masculine complicity in sexual violence and simultaneously claims protection for the Romanian feminine subject within the naturalized gender roles of the hegemonic ethnic group" (164). In another well-argued piece, Svitlana Taraban explores how Ukrainian internet brides exploit neotraditional gender ideologies which they do not necessarily share in order to open up opportunities for themselves. Anna Brzozowska, in "Deficient Belarus? Insidious Gender Binaries and Hyper-Feminized Nationality," argues that while national identity is typically defined with so-called "masculine" traits, Belarusian self-description is replete with implicitly "female" values, such as vulnerability, passivity, victimization, muteness, invisibility, and smallness, and that this reinforces Belarusian negative self-evaluation. Ewa Grigar also presents a fascinating look at contemporary Central East European female artists. She argues that in reaction to the suppression of individuality in the communist period, female artists are using the female body "as a cipher for the search for individual identity" (93). They are challenged, however, not only by the state of postcommunism, but also by an epidemic consumerism that threatens to suppress individuality. Janet Elise Johnson contributes a piece on the growth and development of crisis centers in Barnaul, which argues that "the collapse of communism...[has]

Continued on next page

Book reviews, continued

allow[ed] feminist orientations to be considered and adopted by those in power.” (41) In other words, despite both weakness and a reliance on coercion in the criminal justice system, gains have been made in convincing the state of its responsibility for protecting women from domestic violence.

Other articles are less effective. Anne-Marie Kramer’s piece on the abortion debate in Poland argues in part that opinion polling on abortion, which is constructed as an opposition between the modernist (secular) left and the neotraditional (Catholic) right, and suppresses the gender dimension of the debate, “contributes to the association of masculinity with the exercise of citizenship.” (74) While her methodology appears sound, the subject matter is too narrow to admit of any real contribution to understanding gender-role construction in Poland. Iulia Shevchenko’s article suffers from the same narrowness: she assesses women’s participation in the Russian Duma 1995-2001, and finds that women tend to advocate for women-centered issues only when they are less partisan (i.e. relating to neotraditional gender ideologies). Azra Hromadzic’s article on Bosnian war rapes suggests that top-down categorization, such as focusing of ethnicity and gender, on shared oppression, or through medicalization, should be substituted for a bottom-up approach of listening to individual stories. While Hromadzic makes an important point and uses some fascinating material, she ultimately generalizes as much as those she criticizes, arguing that the stories “encompass enormous creativity and individual capacity for coping with violence in highly profound and subculturally specific ways.” (181)

In her concluding article, Nanette Funk discusses the relationships that have developed between women from the region and the West since the fall of communism. She asserts that differences in the understanding of gender and unequal power relationships between the two groups of women have acted to block communication, and that multiple forms of discourse are necessary “if there is to be a fair, just, democratic, deliberative transnational feminism” (223). This underscores one of the key themes of the book: the influence of global trade and communications for women of the region, not only in economic, social, political and cultural terms, but in the introduction of a multiplicity of feminisms from the West, and the consequent struggle to build gender ideologies that are meaningful and useful in the postcommunist context. While both East and West contributors make a point of interrogating their own biases and perspectives in the course of their work, which is a critical part of their explicitly feminist project, in some cases this is more effective than others. At times the reader is left feeling that the hyper-analysis of some of the works trails off into insubstantiality. Nevertheless, those interested in feminist scholarship and in the developments of gender identity and relationships in the region will find much of value in this volume.

—Marlyn Miller, Brandeis University



News of Members

Submissions for “News of Members” for the Fall edition should be sent directly to the editor (monniern@missouri.edu) by September 15th.

Elizabeth Hemenway has accepted a position as Senior Lecturer in History and Director of Women’s Studies/ Gender Studies at Loyola University Chicago beginning in August 2007.

Angela Brintlinger (The Ohio State University), and co-editor Ilya Vinitzky have just published *Madness and The Mad in Russian Culture* (University of Toronto Press, 2007). The volume is devoted to the history of madness in the political, literary and cultural spheres of Russia and includes articles by AWSS members Brintlinger and **Helena Goscilo** (University of Pittsburg) and, as well as an afterword by AWSS member **Julie V. Brown** (UNC-Chapel Hill). As Caryl Emerson writes, this is “A fascinating book on that most difficult task: making cultural sense out of worlds and psyches designed to work on the far side of reason.”



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General Announcements

If you would like an announcement or query to be posted in WEW, please send your text directly to the editor (monniern@missouri.edu)

CFP: Homes and Homecomings:

A Special Issue of *Gender & History* edited by Karen Adler

In the 1970s, feminists in western Europe and north America demanded that normalised understandings of the home, and women's apparent fittedness for confinement in the domestic environment, be thoroughly dismantled. This in part revived the earlier bourgeois feminist rejection of women's captivity in domestic marriage. Meanwhile, contemporary theorists have made much of the 'unhomely condition of the modern world', associating modernity and postmodernity with increasing displacement from spaces that might be considered 'home'. These observations take us so far, but what insights might gender histories be able to bring to considerations of 'the home' and the 'homely'? In particular, how might we historicise the idea of 'being at home'?

This Special Issue of the international journal, *Gender & History*, will revisit and look anew at questions about 'the home' and 'homeliness' and their gendered and historical implications. It aims to bring together historians, cultural geographers, architectural and visual historians, and ask them to explore gendered ideas of the home as both domestic and national spaces and, crucially, spaces - imagined, archival, material - where both these ideas might interact.

We welcome original articles in all areas and periods, including those with illustrations (permissions to be secured by the author). We are also keen to receive work on areas and periods that have had less exposure in *Gender & History*, such as, though not limited to, Middle

Eastern history, Jewish history, antiquity, medieval and early modern history, and histories of 'the south'. Scholars working in other areas are equally welcome to submit proposals.

The volume does not propose to rehearse the well-worn territory of 'separate spheres'. It seeks instead to reflect on new configurations of the domestic, and how historians can visit and understand these locations in the past. It wants to explore the meanings of homes during and after major conflict, and the return home, as well as homes as a constituent part of conflict itself. What sort of new understandings of homelessness might be found, and where do questions of masculinity figure?

It also wants to understand homes on regional, national and transnational scales. What kind of framework does home and homecoming provide for thinking about diaspora, exile, migration, refuge or asylum as processes of coming, rather than leaving, home? What are the gendered implications of demands to reclaim home and homes?

The Special Issue is due to be published in 2009 and to appear in 2010 as a book. All articles published in *Gender & History* undergo full anonymous peer review.

300-word proposals should be sent to genderandhistory@nottingham.ac.uk by 31 July 2007. Those submitting successful proposals will be invited to present their articles at a conference to be held in Nottingham, Great Britain, in early 2008. The articles themselves should be about 9,000 words and conform to the *Gender & History* style (see <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0953-5233>).

Dr Karen Adler, FRHistS
Editor, *Gender & History*
School of History
University of Nottingham
Nottingham NH7 2RD
Tel: +44 115 951 5933

CFP: Women's Clubs at Home and in the World

A Special Issue of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*. Special Issue Editors: Karen Blair, Central Washington University, Karen.Blair@cwu.edu, Gayle Gullett, Arizona State University, Gayle.Gullett@asu.edu

Scholarship on “women’s clubs & organizations created and controlled by women” has flourished in the humanities and social sciences for the past thirty years. This special issue of *Frontiers* calls for retrospective examinations of the field and for essays whose innovative questions forecast its future. The topics for these essays are open. Possible themes include asking how clubs construct numerous types of identities to how they shape notions of place, from local to global. Papers can explore how clubs engage in culture productions, genteel and popular, and all kinds of politics, ranging from personal to transnational, radical to conservative.

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.

Submissions can be sent by email to frontiers@asu.edu or on disc according to submission guidelines at <http://www.asu.edu/clas/history/frontiers/submit.html>. Authors’ names should not appear on the manuscript; please list contact information separately. *Due date for receipt of papers is January 2, 2008.*

Address: Editors, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, Department of History, Arizona State University, P. O. Box 874302, Tempe, AZ 85287-4302.

CFP: *Aspasia 3: The Gender History of Everyday Life*

Aspasia is an international and peer-reviewed yearbook that seeks to bring out the best scholarship in the field of interdisciplinary women’s and gender history focusing on, and especially produced in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe.

Aspasia’s editorial team is Francisca de Haan (Central European University), Maria Bucur (Indiana University), and Krassimira Daskalova (St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia). *Aspasia* is published by Berghahn Books (New York and Oxford). For more information see: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/journals/asp/index.php>

We are soliciting articles of 6,000 to 8,000 words for inclusion in *Aspasia* Volume 3 (to appear in 2009). This issue of *Aspasia* will be dedicated to the practice of

everyday life, to themes linked to the lived, everyday aspects of gender identity. In particular, we are interested in submissions that address the following questions: How have broad institutional frameworks – religious, social, economical, political, and cultural – related to the ways in which average women and men shaped their gender identities? And vice versa: how have (changes in) gender identities and relations influenced broader institutional frameworks and fostered the development of particular lifestyles and divisions between work and recreation/leisure/entertainment? More specifically, how have religious institutions’ assumptions about gender norms shaped the religious practices and spirituality of lay women and men? How have sexual norms impacted how women and men perform and negotiate their sexual identity? How have specific marital traditions, such as patrilocality, influenced how women and men relate to each other in couples, and how gender is understood in small local communities? How have modern economic processes changed economic empowerment along gender lines? How have commercial practices challenged or secured specific understandings of gendered work and identities? What changes did state socialism bring to women’s and men’s gender identities and daily lives, and how did that change over time (through the impact of industrialization, urbanization, an economy of scarcity, etc.)?

These and other questions that engage with the lived, everyday aspects of femaleness and maleness, femininities and masculinities in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe (CESEE), represent the broad focus of *Aspasia’s* next issue. In all cases we are interested in how gender intersected with other categories of identity and social organization—class, ethnicity, nationality, location, age, and sexuality—in shaping the history of everyday life.

Contributions may highlight specific case studies, be more broadly comparative, or address issues pertaining to the methodologies and theoretical underpinnings for working on these aspects of historical research and analysis. They can deal with all historical periods. Overall, we are interested in innovative essays, both in approach and in focus, so long as they remain anchored in the regional context and gender analysis that are the foundation of our yearbook.

The final deadline for submission is 1 October 2007. Please send a copy as Word attachment to: Maria Bucur: mbucur@indiana.edu. Guidelines for authors: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/journals/asp/index.php?pg=notes>

CFP: Conference: Tactics of Resistance: Limitations & Possibilities. Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of Western Ontario, Canada, October 12-13, 2007

The aim of this conference is to discuss various forms of resistance. Considering late capitalism's ability to accommodate sites of resistance and the ensuing incapacitation of revolutionary tactics and impulses, we are faced with the questions: Where can we find sites of resistance today? How do social, cultural and political constraints impact on the prospects of emerging forms of resistance? Must tactics always remain 'marginal,' situational and contextual?

We are looking for papers addressing alternative conceptions and frameworks of resistance, and their potential for revolutionary change. We welcome students, professors, artists and activists to re-think resistance through an interdisciplinary alliance. Accordingly, we are seeking contributions in the form of papers that question, re-articulate and address a variety of issues, including (but not limited to) citizenship, belonging, community, integration, dissent, consensus, avant-garde and political subversions. Presentations will emerge from (and beyond) the following fields: anthropology, political science, sociology, nationalism and transatlantic studies, first nations and diaspora studies, critical theory, postcolonial studies, law, philosophy, feminist and gender studies, comparative literature, architecture, film and media studies, and visual arts.

The following is a selection of perspectives this conference will attempt to bring together for fruitful dialogue:

- interdisciplinarity as an academic tactic
- redefining nationhood
- issues of resistance: class, citizenship and migration
- dissemination of local resistance
- global, local and transnational dynamics of resistance
- First nations and the politics of citizenship
- feminist critiques of the narratives of resistance
- tactics of engagement
- humour, mimicry, parody, irony as tactic
- visual culture as a site of confrontation
- the power of subaltern knowledge
- the political unconscious
- resisting/existing queer identities
- artistic interventions
- resisting resistance
- the (im)possibility of transgression.

Please send abstracts of 250-300 words *by August 6, 2007* to: confrontationsconf@gmail.com. Please include your

academic or activist affiliation in your proposal, as well as keywords and an applicable area for your topic.

Unfortunately, the conference cannot cover travel or accommodation costs for the presenters. We strongly encourage our participants to apply for funding at their home institutions. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Centre for the Study of Theory & Criticism
The University of Western Ontario Room 2345,
Somerville House London, Ontario N6A 3K7, Canada
<http://www.uwo.ca/theory>

Call for speakers: The 2007-2008 Gender and Transition Workshop at the NYU Center for European and Mediterranean Studies

The Gender and Transition Workshop at the NYU Center for European and Mediterranean Studies invites speakers to submit proposals for talks for the academic year 2007-2008. The topic can be about any issue on gender in relation to east and central Europe and the former Soviet Union, including the Baltic countries and Central Asia. It should not be a general topic, but cover a specific area of research, activism, or expertise, for example (but not excluding related topics) on gender and NGOs in the region, on gender policy in the region, on feminist political theory and the region, on current political and economic developments and the region, etc.

Please note: We cannot cover transportation expenses to New York City, so the speaker should be someone who is or expects to be in the New York area. We can, however, offer an honorarium for the talk.

All proposals are welcome, both from women from the region and experts from the U.S. or elsewhere. We invite activists as well as scholars and researchers.

The workshop is a small, informal, and friendly group of about 20 feminist scholars, activists, and journalists, which has been meeting for more than 13 years. We have general background information, so general talks are not relevant for this group.

If you would like to present a talk for this workshop, please e-mail the co-moderators: Sonia Jaffe Robbins, sjr5@nyu.edu, and Nanette Funk, nanfunk@earthlink.net.

Funding opportunity: ArtsLink Projects

ArtsLink Projects support U.S. artists, curators, presenters and non-profit arts organizations undertaking projects

in Central Europe, Russia and Eurasia. Since 1992, ArtsLink has disbursed nearly \$1.5 million in ArtsLink Projects awards. Awards are made in a given discipline on an alternate-year basis:

- 2008 Performing Arts and Literature
- 2009 Visual and Media Arts

Applicants must be working with an artist or organization in that region and projects should be designed to benefit participants and audiences in both the US and the host country. In 2008, applications will be accepted from individual artists, presenters, and non-profit arts organizations working in dance, music, theater and literature. ArtsLink has a cycle of alternate year deadlines according to discipline. In 2009, applications will be accepted from individual artists, curators, and non-profit arts organizations working in visual and media arts. Support is provided to:

- create new work that draws inspiration from interaction with artists and the community in the country visited;
- establish mutually beneficial exchange of ideas and expertise between artists, arts organizations, and the local community;
- pursue artistic cooperation that will enrich creative or professional development, or has potential to expand the community's access to the art of other cultures.

Eligibility: Students, scholars, administrators, critics, and amateur groups are not eligible to apply. In addition, projects focusing solely on research, or the production of an audio recording are not eligible. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

Eligible Countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

ArtsLink Projects awards will generally range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 depending on the project budget. Awards will seldom cover the applicant's total project expenses.

Applications must be postmarked *by January 15, 2008*. The earliest project start date is May 1, 2008. Projects must be completed by April 30, 2009. ArtsLink Projects awards will be announced in late April 2008. Application forms and guidelines, as well as descriptions of past projects and recipients can be found on CEC ArtsLink's website (www.cecartslink.org). To consult with ArtsLink

staff or to receive information about ArtsLink, please call 212-643-1985 x22, fax: 212-643-1996, e-mail: al@cecartslink.org

Funding opportunity: Center for Urban History of East-Central Europe, Lviv, Ukraine

The Center for Urban History of East-Central Europe (Lviv, Ukraine) is pleased to announce a competition for grants towards research on the topic "Modern East-Central European City in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Commonalities of Urbanity, Regional Variations and Vectors of Change." Thematically project participants' research will have to touch upon at least some of the following:

- peculiarities of the 19th and 20th century urbanization process in East-Central Europe (demography, infrastructure, class formation);
- formation and contestation of urban space, its structure and usage;
- urban policies – techniques of governmentality, public space, citizenship, municipal community, and civic action;
- representations of the city and in the city, meanings, symbols, imagination and fantasies displayed, performed and rethought.

Research support is available as:

- Graduate scholarships (for former socialist countries students)
- Post-Graduate Scholarships (for former socialist countries scholars)
- Short-term research and travel grants (for former socialist countries scholars)
- Live-in stipends (for scholars from all over the world)

Contact: Andriy Zayarnyuk

Center for Urban History of East Central Europe

Address: Vul. Akad. Bohomoltsia 6, 79005 Lviv, 1st floor.

Tel.: +38-0322-751309, +38-0322-764088

Fax: +38-0322-751309, +38-0322-751799

Email: institute@lvivcenter.org or visit the website at <http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/research>

Funding opportunity: 2008-2009 Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC

The Woodrow Wilson Center awards approximately 20-25 residential fellowships annually in an international competition. Successful fellowship applicants submit outstanding proposals in a broad range of the social sciences and humanities on national and/or international

issues. Topics and scholarship should relate to key public policy challenges or provide the historical and/or cultural framework to illuminate policy issues of contemporary importance. Fellows should be prepared to interact with policymakers in Washington and with Wilson Center staff who are working on similar topics.

Eligibility: Applications from any country are welcome. Men and women with outstanding capabilities and experience from a wide variety of backgrounds are eligible for appointment. For academic participants, eligibility is limited to the postdoctoral level. Academic candidates must demonstrate their scholarly development by publications beyond their Ph.D. dissertation. For other applicants, an equivalent level of professional achievement is expected. Applicants should have a very good command of spoken English, since the Center is designed to encourage the exchange of ideas among its Fellows.

Stipend: In general, the Center tries to ensure that the stipend provided under the fellowship, together with the Fellow's other sources of funding (e.g., grants secured by the applicant and sabbatical allowances), approximate a Fellow's regular salary.

Fellows are provided private offices, Windows-based computers, and research assistants. Professional librarians provide access to the Library of Congress, universities and special libraries in the area, and other research facilities. The Center holds one round of competitive selection per year. *Deadline for application is October 1, 2007.*

Woodrow Wilson Center
Scholar Selection and Services Office
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-3027
Email: fellowships@wilsoncenter.org
Visit the website at <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowships>

Funding opportunity: Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships, 2008-2009, Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Five Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities are available for the 2008-2009 academic year from the Penn Humanities Forum of the University of Pennsylvania for untenured junior scholars who are no more than eight years out of their doctorate. The programs of the Penn Humanities Forum are conceived through yearly topics that invite broad interdisciplinary

collaboration. The Forum has set CHANGE as the topic for the 2008-2009 academic year. Research proposals on this topic are invited from a variety of theoretical perspectives in all areas of humanistic study except educational curriculum-building and the performing arts. Candidates from all humanistic disciplines are eligible, as well as those in allied areas such as Anthropology and History of Science.

Fellows teach one undergraduate course each of two terms in addition to conducting research. Stipend: \$42,000 plus health insurance. The fellowship is open to all scholars, national and international, who meet eligibility criteria.

Full fellowship guidelines, topic description, and downloadable application are available online only: <http://www.phf.upenn.edu>. *Deadline for application is October 15, 2007.*

Jennifer Conway, Associate Director
Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania
3619 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6213
Phone: (215)898.8220
Email: humanities@sas.upenn.edu or visit the website at <http://www.phf.upenn.edu>

Funding opportunity: National Humanities Center Fellowships 2008-2009

Purpose and Nature of Fellowships: The National Humanities Center offers 40 residential fellowships for advanced study in the humanities during the academic year, September 2008 through May 2009. Applicants must hold doctorate or equivalent scholarly credentials. Young scholars as well as senior scholars are encouraged to apply, but they must have a record of publication, and recent Ph.D.s should be aware that the Center does not support the revision of a doctoral dissertation. In addition to scholars from all fields of the humanities, the Center accepts individuals from the natural and social sciences, the arts, the professions, and public life who are engaged in humanistic projects. The Center is also international and gladly accepts applications from scholars outside the United States.

Areas of Special Interest: Most of the Center's fellowships are unrestricted. Several, however, are designated for particular areas of research. These include environmental studies and history; English literature; art history or visual culture; French history, literature, or culture; Asian Studies; and theology. Scholars interested in the impact of recent scientific research on the concept of

the human are also encouraged to apply; see “Autonomy, Singularity, Creativity” on the Center’s website.

Stipends: Fellowships up to \$60,000 are individually determined, the amount depending upon the needs of the Fellow and the Center’s ability to meet them. The Center provides travel expenses for Fellows and their dependents to and from North Carolina.

Facilities and Services: Located in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina, near Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh, the Center provides an environment for individual research and the exchange of ideas. Its building includes private studies for Fellows, conference rooms, a central commons for dining, lounges, reading areas, a reference library, and a Fellows’ workroom. The Center’s noted library service delivers books and research materials to Fellows, and support for information technology and editorial assistance are also provided. The Center locates housing for Fellows in the neighboring communities.

Deadline and Application Procedures. Applicants submit the Center’s form, supported by a curriculum vitae, a 1000-word project proposal, and three letters of recommendation. You may request application material from Fellowship Program, National Humanities Center, Post Office Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2256, or obtain the form and instructions from the Center’s website. Applications and letters of recommendation must be postmarked *by October 15, 2007*. More information available at <http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us>, or e-mail nhc@ga.unc.edu.

Call for Entries: 2007 Zora Kipel Prize Competition (book, article, student research)

The North American Association for Belarusian Studies and the family of Zora Kipel are pleased to solicit entries for the 2007 Zora Kipel Prize competition. The prizes, \$500.00 for books and \$200.00 for articles, will be awarded to the authors of outstanding new publications in the fields of Belarusian cultural studies, linguistics, literature, history and politics. Books and articles published between 2003 and 2007 in either English or Belarusian are eligible.

The board and family are also happy to announce the creation of a new prize (\$100) for outstanding research papers in Belarusian studies by undergraduate and graduate students. Unpublished papers at least 15 pages (double-spaced) in length, written between 2003 and 2007 are eligible for the 2007 competition.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges made up of

NAABS officers and members. To enter the competition, please send a copy of your book or article to the following address *by August 20, 2007*:

Dr. Curt Woolhiser
Harvard University
Department of Slavic Languages
and Literatures
Barker Center 327, 12 Quincy St.
Cambridge, MA 02138-3804

Winners will be announced in January 2008.

Announcement: *Aspasia* 1

The first volume of *Aspasia*, the new yearbook on women’s and gender history in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe, has just come from the press. Focusing on the theme of Women’s Movements and Feminisms, it includes eight articles, a forum on “Communism and Feminism,” as well as book review essays covering Russia, Estonia, Romania, and Greece.

Note: The issue contains articles by AWSS members Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild (“Women’s Suffrage and Revolution in the Russian Empire, 1905-1917”) and Krassimira Daskalova (“How Should We Name the “Women-Friendly” Actions of State Socialism?”)

Aspasia is published by Berghahn Books: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/journals/asp/index.php>

Announcement: online resource

I recently discovered that on the Duke University Library Slavic web page, there is a listing of all of the author entries found in *Dictionary of Russian Women Writers*, edited by Marina Ledkovsky, Charlotte Rosenthal, Mary Zirin. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1994. http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/slavic/Russ_Lit_Women.htm

I have found this useful in several ways, and wanted to share this information with those of you who may not have a copy of this reference work quickly available.

Regards, June Farris

Scholarly query

I am looking for information—scholarly treatments, novels—on the perception of Slavic women in western Europe (particularly Germany) from roughly the turn of the century through WWII. Any leads would be heartily appreciated! Thanks!

Christine Fojtik, Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison

AWSS MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL 2007

Please send this form together with a check made out to "AWSS" to our secretary-treasurer at the following address: Dr. Kris Groberg, 324D Department of Visual Arts, NDSU Downtown Campus, 650 NP Avenue, Fargo, ND 58102

If you are unsure of your membership status, you may email Kris at: kristi.groberg@ndsu.edu.

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Nicole Monnier
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Women East-West
Issue 91

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