

Women East-West

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EDITOR
Nicole Monnier

BIBLIOGRAPHIC EDITOR
June Pachuta Farris

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR
Betsy Jones Hemenway

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AWSS 5th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: GENDER IN CONFLICT

The 5th Biennial Conference for the Association for Women in Slavic Studies took place April 1st and 2nd on the campus of University of Texas, Austin. Framed by the approaching 20th anniversaries of the fall of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, the conference was dedicated to the gender analysis of conflict—economic, political, social, military, cultural—in the origins, experiences and legacies of communist experiments in the former “Eastern bloc” states and the USSR.

Conference organizers Mary Neuburger (University of Texas) and Maria Bucur (Indiana University) brought together an impressive number of participants from disciplines across the general field of Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian studies. Twenty-seven scholars from seventeen universities and five countries represented eleven disciplinary (and interdisciplinary) fields, including history, literature, law, journalism, public policy, anthropology, psychology. Collectively, the papers presented addressed over twelve countries and regions, including Albania, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Russia, and the Balkans.

Conference goals included consideration of the usefulness of gender as a lens through which to examine conflict in the region; the degree to which ‘women’s issues’ remain as such, or whether there has been a scholarly shift in agenda and perspective in the last two decades to consider them more generally as ‘human issues’; and the ways in which the experiences of women (and men) might be nuanced so that they are seen as agents of transformation or even destruction, rather than “revictimizing” them as mere objects.

The cluster of connections that emerged among the papers made clear that those



Conference participants at Friday session, “Patriarchy in the Bloc”

questions remain vital ones, and fertile ground for continuing scholarship: from the move from victimization to agency (Bucur, West, Ghodsee, Hashamova, Azhgikhina); the recuperation of the legacies of progressive women (Ghodsee, Heczkova, Saburova, Stoff, Azhgikhina, Harris); changing (and unchanging) gender roles in families and in couples (Kuzmic and Huston, Lostrioscio and Malbasa, Wise, Musliu, Duda, Kolchevska and Bokovoj); identity formation (Linhardt, McCullough, Bucur, Saburova); politics and the body (Lalo, Brown, Neuberger, Severson, Chamberlin, Musliu); and gender and wartime experience (Stoff, Dzyadovych, Jug, Hashamova). (See program below for full names and paper titles.) In the keynote address, “Suffering and Survival: Gender in the Balkans Beyond State and Religion,” Yana Hashamova (The Ohio State University) masterfully wove all of these themes into her discussion of the changing image of ethnic, gender, and family conflict as projected in Balkan film of the socialist and post-socialist periods.

The organizers and AWSS would like to thank once again conference sponsors University of Texas (Austin), the Center for European Studies at UT, Indiana University (Bloomington) and Ohio State University (Columbus) for their generous support.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, April 1st, 2011

Panel 1: Love, Sex and the Body

“Erotic Fiction?” Gender, Sex and Eroticism in Vladimir Sorokin’s and Viktor Erofeyev’s Prose,” Aleksei Lalo (Comparative Literature, University of Texas)

“Gender Differences in Expressions of Love in Contemporary Croatia,” Tatiana Kuzmič, (Slavic and Eurasian Studies, University of Texas) and Ted Huston (Psychology, University of Texas)

Panel 2: Gender and Agency

“Women and Everyday Citizenship in 20th-century Romania,” Maria Bucur (History, Indiana University) [women, work and self-identity in communist and post-communist Romania]

“Issues of Space and Agency in HIV Transmission Among Males in Russian Prisons,” Jamie Severson (CREES, University of Texas)

“Creating the Politically Conscious Woman,” Angela Linhardt (Slavic Languages and Literatures, Duke University) [Russian women’s journals of the latter 19th and early 20th centuries]

Panel 3: Gender Dis(order)

“Gender, Age and Major Depressive Disorder in Ukraine,” Margaret Chamberlin, (CREES, University of Texas)

“The Absence of the M/other: Maternal abandonment, Feminine Identity and Post-Soviet Psychosis as Explored in Kira Muratova’s *Ophelia* (1997)” Megan McCullough (Radio, Television, and Film, University of North Texas)

“Feminist Voyages: Gender and Travel in Albania,” Chelsi West (Anthropology, University of Texas) [domestic travel and external migration of Albanian women]

Panel 4: Patriarchy in the Bloc

“For Women It Is a Duty to Give Birth, For Girls an Honor’: Patriarchy and Pronatalism in Early Communist Hungary, 1948-1956,” Karl Brown (History, University of Texas)

“Gendering Socialist Internationalism,” Kristin Ghodsee (Gender and Women’s Studies, Bowdoin College) [the active role of Bulgarian communist women leaders in the promotion of international socialist women’s education and organization]

“Smoke-Filled Wombs: Gender and Smoking in Socialist Bulgaria,” Mary Neuberger (History, University of Texas)

❖ Keynote address

“Suffering and Survival: Gender in the Balkans Beyond State and Religion,” Yana Hashamova (Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, Ohio State)



Keynote speaker Yana Hashamova prepares for her address

Saturday, April 2nd, 2011

Panel 1: Gender and Violence after Communism

“Gender as a Vocation, Gender as a Crime,” Libuse Heczkova (Czech and Comparative Literature, Charles University / University of Texas) [the 1950 show trial and fate of Czechoslovak feminist and socialist Milada Horáková]

“Violence Against Women in Macedonia: Legal Equality for Unequal Citizens,” Ali Musliu (Law, State University of Tetova, Macedonia)

“Croatian Women: Breaking out of a Patriarchal Society through the Fall of Communism, War and the Road to Democracy,” Kelly Lostroscio (Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University) and Jagoda Malbasa (Slavic Languages and Literatures, Indiana University)

Panel 2: Gender in Revolutionary Times

“Ariadna Tyrkova-Williams: Identity and Behavior Strategies of Women in Revolutionary Russia,” Tatiana Saburova (History, Omsk State Pedagogical University / Fulbright visiting scholar, Indiana University) [Tyrkova-Williams as representative of the 1880s generation of Russian women]

(Conference program continues on p. 5)

2011 AWSS AWARDS

Call for nominations and submissions

Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes the work of a scholar in the field of Slavic Studies who has also served as a mentor to female students/colleagues in this field. To 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; and 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.

Please email materials by **September 15th, 2011** to committee members Adele Lindenmeyr (chair) (adele.lindenmeyr@villanova.edu), Maria Bucur (mbucur@indiana.edu), and Karen Petrone (petrone@uky.edu).

Mary Zirin Prize

This award of \$500 is named for Mary Zirin, the founder of *Women East-West*. Working as an independent scholar, Zirin produced and 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 accepts nominations and self-nominations. Nominations must include: (1) a nomination letter of no more than two-pages double-spaced; (2) the nominee's current curriculum vitae; and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar's contribution to the field as well as work in progress.

The Committee encourages 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 Paula Michaels at paula-michaels@uiowa.edu, or by postal mail to Prof. Paula Michaels, 106 Hanford Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516 no later than **August 1st, 2011**

Graduate Research Prize

The Graduate Research 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 Women's or Gender Studies related to Slavic Studies/ East Europe/Central Asia by either a woman or a man. Graduate students who are at any stage of master's or doctoral level research are eligible.

The grant can be used to support expenses related to completion of a 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, 2011** by the committee chairperson, Nicole Monnier (recommenders may send their letters as emails OR as email attachments) at monniern@missouri.edu. NB: The AWSS Graduate Research Prize is awarded only every other year.

Graduate Essay Prize

For a 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/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 2009-

2010. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written during the academic year 2010-2011. 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 ASEEES national convention in November.

Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to each of the three committee members **by September 1st, 2011.**

Prof. Maria Bucur
Russian and East European Institute
Indiana University
565 Ballantine Hall
1020 Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47405-6615

Prof. Janet Johnson
425 Dean St., Apt 2
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Prof. Sharon Kowalsky
9653 Vinewood Dr.
Dallas, TX 75228



(Conference program continued from p. 3)

“Zoia Kosmodemianskaia 1986-2011: The Execution and Rebirths of the Komsomolka,” Andrienne Harris (Modern Foreign Languages, Baylor University)

“Building Bridges Across Conflicts: The Role of Women Journalists,” Nadezhda Azhgikhina (Journalism, Moscow State University) [the feminization of Russian journalism and the underreporting of gender issues in the current Russian media]

Panel 3: Gender and War

“Narrating Wartime Subjectivity: Women’s Experience in World War II,” Tetyana Dzyadovych (Literature and Foreign Languages, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy) [the lives of everyday Ukrainian women in occupation and evacuation]

“Heroines in Conflict: Soviet Women, Red Army Newspapers, and Wartime Gender Discourse,” Steven Jug (History, University of Illinois)

“More than Binding Men’s Wounds: Russian Nurses of World War I,” Laurie Stoff (History, Louisiana Tech)

Panel 4: All In the Family

“Gendering Family Frames: One Family’s Twentieth Century Balkan Odyssey,” Melissa Bokovoy (History, University of New Mexico), Natasha Kolchevska (Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of New Mexico) [the peregrinations of Kolchevska’s Russian Orthodox grandmother from Russia to Chicago]

“Cultural Fundamentalism and the Traditional Family in Poland,” Andrew Wise (History and Government, Daemen College) [the social theories of Feliks Koneczny (1866-1949) and their propagation in contemporary Poland by the League of Polish Families]

“The Construct of Family and the Construction of Family in Evgeniia Ginzburg’s Memoirs,” Katheryne Duda (Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago)





Conference participants Nadezhda Azhgikhina, Natasha Kolchevska, and Melissa Bokovoy

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AWSS BOARD 2011: NEW MEMBERS

Adele Lindenmeyr (History, Villanova University) has begun her three-year term as president, while Karen Petrone (History, University of Kentucky) has stepped into the position of Vice President / President-elect. New general board members for 2011 are Melissa Bokovoy (History, University of New Mexico), Yana Hashamova (Slavic and East European Languages and Literature, The Ohio State University), Catherine Wanner (History, Anthropology and Religious Studies, Penn State University), and Maya Peterson (graduate student representative, History, Harvard University).

Board members elected in 2011 will serve through 2011, with the possibility of renewal of their terms for another three years.

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Readers are encouraged to forward items which have thus far escaped listing to: June Pachuta Farris, Slavic Bibliographer, Room 263 Regenstein Library, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 USA (jpf3@uchicago.edu).

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XXI asr busaghasida Uzbekiston aëllarining izhtimoi salohiatini oshirishga kumaklashish imkoniali: (simposium materialari) = Vozmozhnost' sodeistviia raskrytiu sotsial'nogo potentsiala zhenshchin Uzbekistana na rubezhe XXI veka (materialy simpoziuma). Toshkent: Izhtimoi fikr, 1999. 175p. [in Uzbek and Russian]

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