

# Women East-West

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EDITOR  
Nicole Monnier

BIBLIOGRAPHIC EDITOR  
June Pachuta Farris

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR  
Betsy Jones Hemenway

BOOK REVIEWS  
Lynn Visson  
Nameeta Mathur  
Anastasia I. Kayiatos

## *4th Biennial Conference of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies*

### **GENDER, CITIZENSHIP, AND EMPIRE**

*The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio  
April 16-18, 2009*

#### **Call for Papers/Panels**

In an increasingly globalized world, the meaning of citizenship has become ever more fluid. Post-socialist countries in particular have seen great transformations in the rights individuals claim and in the obligations expected of them. The changing nature of citizenship in the post-Cold War world has also prompted those who look at the past to reconsider what it meant to be the subject (and sometimes citizen) of imperial lands (Russian, Soviet, Ottoman, or Habsburg) in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Gender is central to understanding definitions of citizenship and subjecthood during the imperial period(s) as well as to understanding the shifting definitions of citizenship in the post-Soviet period. While issues of gender have been visible in the arts, they have yet to be fully explored by historians and social scientists. Thus the aim of the conference is to stimulate further investigation and discussion of the relationship between gender and the overarching structures and practices (political, social, economic, and cultural) of the empires and post-imperial states of this region.

AWSS invites scholars of all disciplines (Slavic/Eurasian/East European studies, including anthropology, art, film, history, library science, literature, music, political science, popular culture, sociology, and any aspect of women's studies) who are working on themes related to gender, citizenship, and empire in Eastern Europe and Eurasia to submit their abstracts electronically to Professor Margaret Beissinger, Princeton University, mhbeissi@Princeton.edu, who will distribute them to a multi-disciplinary conference selection committee. *All proposals are due January 15, 2009.* Applicants will be notified about their participation in mid-February. Proposals for panels/papers must include:

- A 150-word abstract for each paper
- A one-page c.v. for each participant

Proposals for workshops must include a brief description of the topic and, if possible, should attach a list of possible presenters/facilitators.

*In 2009, the AWSS Conference will be held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Midwest Slavic Association on the campus of The Ohio State University.*

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**@Remember to renew your  
AWSS membership for 2008!**

*Mail-in renewal forms are  
available in every issue of  
WEW.*

## 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. With gender as the 2008 AAASS convention theme, a number of these scholars who have been approved for participation on panels and roundtables simply cannot travel to Philadelphia without financial assistance larger than what we have provided in the past, because of visa, hotel and air travel expenses.

### ✉ CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE MATCHED!

An anonymous donor has offered to match any contributions we receive for these travel funds.

Please send your checks to:

Dr. Kris Groberg  
324D Department of Visual Arts  
NDSU Downtown Campus  
650 NP Avenue  
Fargo, ND 58102

Thanks for your contribution.

And please remember to renew or begin your annual memberships in AWSS. Membership is down and members often forget to renew their memberships. Continuing membership is the critical support that AWSS needs to both grow and develop programs such as our support for the research of colleagues who otherwise would not be able to attend conferences and present their research. You can become a life member for \$100, thereby eliminating the need to renew annually.

—Rochelle Ruthchild, Maria Bucur, Kris Groberg

### ✉ 2008 AWSS GRANTS AND PRIZES

#### 2008 GRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE

*Deadline: AUGUST 15, 2008 (note deadline extension!)*

The 2008 AWSS 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 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 2007-2008. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2007-2008. 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 Natasha Kolchevska, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, 229 Ortega Hall, MSC03 2080, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. *All submissions must be postmarked by August 15th.*

#### AWSS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Deadline: September 15, 2008*

The Outstanding Achievement Award Committee of the Association of Women in Slavic Studies invites nominations for its 2008 prize. 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.

Please email your letter and list by *September 15* to the committee members:

1. Prof. Margaret Beissinger at: [mhbeissi@Princeton.edu](mailto:mhbeissi@Princeton.edu) (chair)
2. Prof. Janneke van de Stadt at [Janneke.vandeStadt@williams.edu](mailto:Janneke.vandeStadt@williams.edu)
3. Prof. Jill Irvine at: [jill.irvine@ou.edu](mailto:jill.irvine@ou.edu)

#### 2008 ZIRIN AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*Deadline: November 1, 2008*

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies announces its annual competition for the Zirin prize. This prize of \$500 is named for Mary Zirin, founder of *Women East-West*. Working as an independent scholar, Zirin produced and encouraged many of the fundamental works in Slavic Women's Studies. The Zirin Prize aims to recognize the achievements of independent scholars and to encourage their continued scholarship and service in work that is pertinent to the field of Slavic Women's studies.

The Zirin Prize Committee will accept nominations,

including self-nominations, for the award until November 1, 2008. Nominations should include a two-page, double-spaced narrative outlining the nominee's achievements and the nominee's CV. Describe the nominee's past and present contributions and relevant work in progress.

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 (1) is not employed at an institution of higher learning, or (2) may be employed by a university or college but 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 urge nominations of worthy scholars from the CIS and from Central and Eastern Europe.

Nominations should be sent to Martha Kuchar at [kuchar@roanoke.edu](mailto:kuchar@roanoke.edu), or via mail to Martha Kuchar, Dept. of English, Roanoke College, 221 College Lane, Salem, VA 24153 (phone: 540-375-2320).

### **AWSS Bookstand: Beyond *Little Vera* conference volume forthcoming**

The AWSS and Ohio State University are pleased to announce the publication of **Beyond *Little Vera*: Women's Bodies, Women's Welfare in Russia and Central/Eastern Europe**, Ohio Slavic Papers, vol. 7, ed. Angela Brintlinger and Natasha Kolchevska, Columbus, Ohio, September 2008.

This peer-reviewed volume comprises ten papers from the 2005 and 2007 AWSS interdisciplinary conferences. As Natasha Kolchevska states in her introduction, "Women in Transit(ion)," through the publication of this volume the editors hope "to highlight the changing landscape for women of various generations in post-Soviet space as reflected in a cross section of current cultural, anthropological, and sociological studies . . . and to offer a balance to the often sensationalized media coverage of gender (especially when it comes to trafficking and commodification of women) by presenting the issues in a more scholarly light."

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The volume will be distributed by Slavica and will be available via mail as well as at the AAASS conference in Philadelphia (November 2008) and at the AWSS conference in Columbus OH (April 2009). For information regarding the availability and purchase of this and other Ohio Slavic Papers titles, please contact: Slavica Publishers, 2611 E. 10th St., Bloomington, IN 47408-2603.



## ❁ Book Reviews ❁

***Dreaming of a Mail-Order Husband: Russian-American Internet Romance.*** By Ericka Johnson. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2007. 193 pp. Notes. Bibliography. \$21.95, paper.

Through interviews conducted with six Russian women in Russia and with seven men and women in the US, Ericka Johnson, a researcher on medical education at Linköping University in Sweden, attempts to describe the situation of young Russian women looking for American husbands via Internet dating agencies. Each chapter deals with the story of one young woman. The lives of Olga, Vera, Valentina, Tanya, Marina, and Anastasia provide a springboard for discussion of the dire economic straits, gender issues, family situations – especially of single mothers – and job problems that prompt these women to seek an American spouse through computer technology. The chapter on the last couple, Anastasia and her American husband John, describes issues of adaptation to American life, including learning English, adapting to new food products, resolving the question of religion, and making friends.

The author's chatty, lively style is easy to read, aside from the social science and feminist jargon that occasionally strikes a jarring note, e.g., "Whiteness is, however, constructed and very contextual" (p. 43). Ms. Johnson's attempt to "contextualize" and "problematize" the "discursive framework" (p. 5) with which she deals, however, is marred by major shortcomings – including methodological ones – and in particular by her lack of familiarity with the literature on this subject and with Russian language, history, and culture. The interviews were conducted entirely in English, putting her at an immediate disadvantage in dealing with the highly personal and intimate issues under discussion, and the number of respondents is so small as to make any generalizations open to question. Although geographical location is an extremely important indicator of the ethnic origin, education, profession, and attitudes of residents, the reader is only told that the interviews were conducted in an unnamed "smaller city." A basic assumption of the book, that most of these women are writing letters by hand to their American would-be husbands, is now badly outdated by events, since even in the provinces access in Russia to the Internet has become widespread.

The bibliography does not contain a single Russian source; all works cited are in English and Swedish. The

extensive literature in Russian on Russian women and cross-cultural dating and marriage is missing; there is no mention even of such major works as the well-known Russian sociologist-sexologist Igor Kon's *The Sexual Revolution in Russia*, which has been published in English translation.

Ms. Johnson seems unaware of even the most fundamental and longstanding Russian cultural attitudes, customs, manners, biases, and prejudices. When Olga announces that she does not want children with a black man, the author is "slightly disturbed by what I interpreted as blatant racism, especially since another woman I had met had said nearly the same thing earlier" (p. 40). The writer is surprised that, as far as feminism is concerned, "the term seems to carry with it an almost pathological connotation in Russian, associated with the antithesis of womanhood in an essentialist discourse" (p. 29). These kinds of attitudes and behaviors are well known to any undergraduate student of Russian history and culture. Her announcement to Valentina, whom she meets in a café, "Should we sit over there? I'll buy you a drink" (p. 67), betrays an ignorance of how utterly negatively any Russian would react to a suggestion that someone would "buy" him or her a drink. Nor does the author then seem to understand why Valentina – whom she has never met before – "would mind if I tape-recorded our conversation... she seemed very uncomfortable with the idea, as had all the other women I met" (p. 67).

The last chapter, entitled "A Catalogue of Hope," attempts to end the narrative on a positive note. Yet some conclusions, including sweeping generalizations, seem to fall well beyond the scope of this book, e.g., "The female in need of steering and direction is well aligned with the developing-country role, transitional economy and social instability that Russians are currently expected to enact on the international scene" (p. 156). There has been no prior discussion whatever of this "international scene" or of the "developing-country role" that Russians are "expected to enact."

*Dreaming of a Mail-Order Husband* may appeal to readers with a general interest in Russian women, but not to specialists in Russian culture.

–Lynn Visson, Monterey Institute of  
International Studies

***Poles Apart: Women in Modern Polish Culture.*** Eds. Helena Goscilo and Beth Holmgren. Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica Publishers, 2006. 167 pp. Figures. Illustrations. \$26.00, paper.

*Poles Apart: Women in Modern Polish Culture* examines how Polish nationalism and feminism have shaped women's participation in the visual and performing arts in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The cultural emancipation of women was both encouraged and undermined by the evolution of a modern civil society in partitioned Poland as well as by the "woman question" that advocated for women's increased participation in public life without compromising their identities as traditional and patriotic mothers and wives. Communist Poland remained burdened by similar nationalist and patriarchal agendas, casting images of women in cultural spaces as ambitious professionals and scandalous transgressors of gender boundaries.

The anthology opens with Beth Holmgren's examples of Helena Modjeska, Maria Wisnowska, and Gabriela Zapolska to explain how the conservative Polish theater militated against actresses wielding any sort of proto-feminist power. Modjeska, for example, long remained the subject of scandal and envy, as a result of which she sought public activism abroad. Also a subject of intense scrutiny is the notable actress Krystyna Janda, who appeared in a variety of conflicting roles such as those of a rebellious and nonconformist young woman, a self-sacrificing "ordinary" woman adorned in homely clothes, a Solidarity activist, a single mother, and a rebel. Elzbieta Ostrowska's insightful essay juxtaposes Janda's dichotomous status as a leading figure in women's emancipation and her personification as an icon of Polish femininity with its attendant focus on domesticity and privacy.

Helena Goscilo's essay identifies traditional womanhood as part of the reason why the Polish operatic contralto Ewa Podleś remains an unacknowledged diva. However, Poland's supposed marginalization in an "Anglophone dominated world" as another reason for Podleś's diva-less status appears farfetched and raises concerns of the country's own insecurity and questionable competitiveness. Bożena Shallcross reflects on artist Olga Boznańska, whose life, despite greater financial freedom and recognition, remained one of solitude, spinsterhood, destitution, and melancholic self-reflection. As a portraitist, Boznańska's art was both conservative and transgressive, and acclaimed for the "gaze" exchanged with both her male and female sitters.

While some male sitters' gaze was painted in neutral, and at times, acceptable terms, the gaze of familiarity and intimacy as evident in the *Portrait of the Painter Paul Nauen* became the focus of a court trial over issues of morality in art. Maria Hanna Makowiecka deconstructs Ewa Kuryluk's novelistic text and art work to reveal "the collective memory of a traumatized culture." This complex essay observes Kuryluk's symbolic cutting of the skin, commitment to individualism, the disregard for a discernible story line and chronology, the intimate experience of the silent and victimized participants, the feminization of redemptive suffering and moral authority, and women's opportunities to rewrite their fates.

Halina Filipowicz's essay comes with the rather melodramatic title "The Wound of History: Gender Studies and Polish Particulars." But the author rightly argues that much is lost in cultural translation when the concept of particularism, with its historicized engagement with local traditions, is not actively employed in a sustained dialogue with other global paradigms. For example, even the conservative Klementyna Hoffmanowa was uniquely radical in her emphasis on women's proficiency in Polish at a time when the country lay dismembered. Both Jadwiga Prendowska's energetic patriotism and Emilia Plater's heroic soldiery earned praise in the western press but they were frowned upon at home for their disregard of feminine mannerisms.

The above essays, with their highly specialized content, will appeal to motivated scholars. However, Andrea Lanoux's narrative on the contemporary Polish women's press will find a wider audience. The author discusses the content of the varied publications, their audiences and revenues, and how they reflect Poland's transition toward a more pluralistic, commercial, and globalized identification. Lanoux analyzes in greater detail *Przyjaciółka* (first published 1948), *Twój Styl* (1989) and *Zadra* (1999) as representatives of the popular, elite and feminist segments of the market. *Przyjaciółka* has replaced its past socialist morality with a more vulgar manifestation of consumer culture and a popular feminist agenda. *Twój Styl* promotes a New Woman who is ambitious, fashionable, independent, and professional. *Zadra's* feminist agenda uses modesty, humor, and a Positivist orientation to provide a medium between extreme tradition and wanton consumerism in the commercial press.

*Poles Apart* succeeds in demonstrating how Polish "national feminism" and patriarchal goals of simplicity, purity, and un-feminist maturity caused professional

women in cultural spaces to either moderate their feminism or relocate to less parochial environs. But, chronologically speaking, the coverage on interwar Poland is limited. The fundamental weakness of the book, however, is its very title *Poles Apart*. Who really is apart and from whom and/or what? In this regard, the book's introduction appears to be on a diet, essentially summarizing individual essays rather than developing more of a sophisticated, analytical, and global context that would allow us to better appreciate the experiences of women in modern Polish culture.

—Nameeta Mathur, *Saginaw Valley State University*



***Private Life and Communist Morality in Khrushchev's Russia.*** By Deborah A. Field. New York: Peter Lang, 2007. 147 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Figures. \$60.95, hard bound.

Contrary to popular belief, there was private life in Soviet Russia. In her compact but compelling monograph, cultural historian Deborah A. Field proceeds against this cold-war repressive hypothesis to discover that—rather than an absence of “intimate ties and individual interests,” as she defines private life—mature socialist society witnessed a proliferation of discourses with varied material effects surrounding these very matters (3). In fact, Field contends, it was by virtue of the post-Stalinist Party-state's increased regulation of feelings, the family, and sexuality that new possibilities for imagining and defending a private sphere “immune to outside interference” could arise for the average Soviet actor (4).

Field is interested in the Khrushchev administration insofar as it promised to shepherd the population along the radiant path not by instilling fear through terror and repression but by peacefully inculcating in its individuals a system of ethics coordinating private and public, personal and collective interests. The fully-realized Soviet citizen would thus be bound by moral compunction before penal code, ultimately allowing the state to wither away as planned.

To effect this transition from state-police to self-policing population, private life was promoted as a necessary albeit inherently fraught dimension of socialist society. Field succinctly captures this official ambivalence in Chapter 2, which describes how the state's creation of new domestic space afforded greater

opportunities for the cultivation of private life while also arousing its anxiety about the home's potentially *meshchanskoe* misuse. With sometimes comical anecdotes, Field contours the novel modes of horizontal surveillance—comprised of house committees, comrades' courts and apartment-dwellers eager to eavesdrop on their neighbors—which emerged to ensure that family residences were rationally inhabited.

If true privacy proved spatially elusive, Field finds that emotional experience, particularly sexual love, remained among “the few available arenas of freedom” for the Soviet subject to conceive its existence (49). This is not to say that the state did not try to manage intimacy, too, just that it failed. Field's study most shines in its appraisal of the new legal and medical views on marriage, divorce, abortion, and infantile masturbation, though her conclusion that sex and love marked the “limits of intervention,” where personal interests exceeded collective control, begs further interrogation, especially given the discursive over-determination of these topics she charts in Chapters 3-6.

With the above exception, Field assumes an implicitly Foucaultian approach which owes in part to political scientist Oleg Kharkhordin (*The Collective and the Individual in Russia: A Study of Practices*, 1999). She draws on him, and many other, disparate cultural commentators, for her brief and somewhat unsatisfying introduction to “public” and “private” as the book's operative terms. Thankfully, her first chapter more skillfully traces the genealogy of these shifting concepts throughout the Soviet period. Readers of Kharkhordin who feel alienated by his foregrounding of Foucault will relish Field's near total abstention from overt theorizing here, which makes for a pleasant, jargon-free style; but those yearning for a more programmatic elucidation of the under-theorized but indispensable categories of her analysis will want to consult Kharkhordin as a useful companion piece.

Nevertheless Field's work is valuable in its own right, and she does part company with Kharkhordin in important ways: rather than playing up the insidious unfreedom of post-Stalinist surveillance culture, Field focuses on power's flip side by enumerating everyday and unspectacular practices of resistance and re-appropriation that expand the available field of agency for the Soviet subject. Her *homo Sovieticus* is not the passive victim of a unilaterally antagonistic state, but an actor alternately capable of accommodation and counter-conduct, or of eking out that slippery existential

mode that Alexei Yurchak has elsewhere labeled living “vnye” (by, for instance, capitalizing on the mostly performative nature of Party prescriptions to personal ends). To illustrate the latter style, Field offers the legal case of a Muscovite citizeness speaking Bolshevik in court to divorce a husband who has allegedly failed to abide by the Communist moral code.

This decision to tell the on-the-ground story of the Thaw—eschewing typical top-down narratives from the perspective of the Party, state or intelligentsia—constitutes one of Field’s primary contributions to the study of the sparsely examined Khrushchev era. She rewards her readers with choice selections from hitherto inaccessible state archives, incorporating alongside her own post-Soviet fieldwork contemporaneous political

documents, legal reports, medical texts, advice literature and newspaper articles. Given the limited length of the book and scope of its investigation, she can only touch lightly upon many of the issues she raises. Even still, the questions at the heart of Field’s project, and her eagerness to rummage through the stuff of *byt* in search of a messier, more intricate Soviet experience point in exciting new directions for future inquiries into late socialism, especially for Slavists working in feminist and sexuality studies, and those pursuing the politics and sociology of emotions.

—Anastasia I. Kayiatos, UC Berkeley



## 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*

**Rhonda Clark** (History) recently completed the Masters of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. She is teaching part-time at Clarion University of PA.



## CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

### GENERAL

*Appreciating Diversity—Cultural and Gender Issues*. Edited by Aneta Chybicka and Maria Kaźmierczak. Cracow: Impuls, 2007. 320p.

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[Partial contents: Goscilo, Helen. “Watery Maidens: Rusalki as Sirens and Slippery Signs,” pp. 50-70; Shallcross,

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- Name and Dates of the conference you wish to attend
- Title and a short (no more than 300 words) abstract in English of your paper
- A budget showing the total cost of your travel and the amount you are requesting.

*Deadlines: February 1 and June 15, 2009.* Those receiving grants will be required to submit a brief report on their funded activities.

#### **Call for nominations: 2008 AATSEEL awards**

If you are a member of AATSEEL, or if you've ever been taught or inspired by a member of AATSEEL, please heed this call for nominations for the 2008 AATSEEL Awards. Awards will be made in the following categories:

- Excellence in Teaching, Secondary
- Excellence in Teaching, Post-Secondary
- Distinguished Service to AATSEEL
- Outstanding Contribution to the Profession
- Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship

A complete list of awards and past recipients can be found at [http://www.aatseel.org/awards\\_2005167](http://www.aatseel.org/awards_2005167). Nominations should be sent by *August 15th* to Professor Catharine Nepomnyashchy, AATSEEL Past President, 2007-2008, Chair, Committee on Nominations and Awards at [cn29@columbia.edu](mailto:cn29@columbia.edu).

#### **CFP: ASPASIA 4 "Gender, the Body, and Sexuality" + open call for non-thematic sections**

Over the last few decades, the body has become the focus of much critical scholarly attention. We are interested in innovative, interdisciplinary work about the histories of gender, the body and sexuality/ies in Central, Eastern,

and Southeastern Europe. How were bodies constructed and gendered there from antiquity onwards through the twentieth century? How was sexuality socially and politically normalised? How did individuals negotiate the sexual/bodily selves in their societies, in daily life and in specific contexts -- from religion and work to healthcare and sports? What did it mean to be a mainstream versus a sexually deviant person, and what consequences did such categories have for individuals and the communities they lived in? What role did the body play in constructing the ideal communist subject? How did bodies in the various contexts of home, school, sports, the military, medical discourse, the arts, fashion, popular culture, and so on, intersect with other relevant categories such as age, ethnicity, class, or geographic location? *The deadline for articles focusing on the theme of "Gender, the Body, and Sexuality" is October 15, 2008.*

Beginning with *ASPASIA 3*, the yearbook will have both thematic foci, as well as open, non-thematic sections, for which we are glad to consider submissions at any time.

Articles, whether thematic or not, should be 6,000-8,000 words and formatted stylistically according to the *ASPASIA* guidelines for authors. These guidelines and more information about *ASPASIA* can be found at <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/journals/asp/index.php>. Please send submissions and inquiries to Maria Bucur at [mbucur@indiana.edu](mailto:mbucur@indiana.edu).

#### **Funding opportunity: Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowships in Women's Studies**

The Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowships in Women's Studies support the final year of dissertation writing for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences whose work addresses issues of women and gender in interdisciplinary and original ways. Awards of \$3,000 each are applicable to research/travel costs. Applications will open the first week of September; *the deadline for submission is October 13, 2008*. Applications are available \*online only.\* To learn more, and to apply, visit [http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/women\\_gender/index.php](http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/women_gender/index.php). Potential applicants who have questions AFTER a full review of the Women's Studies Fellowship Web site may email [ws@woodrow.org](mailto:ws@woodrow.org).

#### **Funding opportunity: Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships at University of Pennsylvania**

Five one-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships are available for the 2009-2010 academic year for untenured scholars in the humanities who are no more than eight

years out of their doctorate. The PhD is the only terminal degree eligible. The fellowship is open to all scholars, national and international, who meet application terms. The programs of the Penn Humanities Forum are conceived through yearly topics that invite broad interdisciplinary collaboration. For the 2009–2010 academic year, we have set "Connections" as the theme. Humanists and those in related fields are invited to submit research proposals on any aspect of this topic, except educational curriculum building and the performing arts. Fellows teach one undergraduate course each of two terms in addition to conducting their research.

The fellowship stipend is \$46,500, plus health insurance. Fellows are required to be in residence during their fellowship year (September–May). Full Fellowship guidelines, "Connections" topic description, and application (downloadable) are available on the Forum's website only: <http://www.phf.upenn.edu>. *Completed application and supporting materials must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, October 15, 2008.* Contact info: Wendy Steiner, Richard L. Fisher Professor of English, Director, Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, 3619 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6213; website: <http://www.phf.upenn.edu>

#### **Funding opportunity: Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships**

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences, and particularly to help Ph.D. candidates in these fields complete their dissertation work in a timely manner. Twenty-nine awards of \$24,000 each will be available in the 2009 competition.

Applications will open the first week of September; *the deadline for submission is November 14, 2008*. Applications are available \*online only.\* To learn more, and to apply, visit [http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/religion\\_ethics/index.php](http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/religion_ethics/index.php). Potential applicants who have questions AFTER a full review of the Newcombe Fellowship Web site may email [charlotte@woodrow.org](mailto:charlotte@woodrow.org).

#### **Funding opportunities: IREX (various)**

*Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Program (IARO):* The IARO Program provides fellowships to US scholars and professionals for overseas research on topics relevant to US foreign policy. Limited funding is available for non-policy relevant topics. *Deadline: November 17, 2008.*



*Regional Policy Symposium:* IREX and Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars sponsor the annual Regional Policy Symposium to bring senior and junior fellows together with members of the policy community to examine and discuss current policy research of the countries of Eurasia and Central and Eastern Europe from multi-disciplinary and multi-regional approaches. The selection of junior scholars is administered through an open grant competition. The topic of the upcoming symposium and application materials can be found on our website. *Deadline: December 1, 2008.*

*Short-Term Travel Grants Program (STG):* The STG Program provides fellowships to US scholars and professionals for overseas research on issues relevant to US foreign policy. *Deadline: February 2, 2009.*

*US Embassy Policy Specialist Program:* Selected postdoctoral scholars and professionals serve as Policy Specialists-in-residence at a US Embassy or Consulate as well as conduct independent research. *Deadline: March 2, 2009.*

#### **Funding opportunities: ACTR/ACCELS (various)**

*Title VIII Special Initiatives Fellowship Program:* Fellowships for post-doctoral scholars. Awards up to \$35,000 for field research on policy-relevant topics in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. *Deadlines: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).*

*NEH Collaborative Research Fellowship:* Fellowships for post-doctoral scholars. Awards up to \$40,000 for four to nine months of humanities research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Proposals must include plans to work with at least one collaborator in the field. *Deadline: February 15.*

*Title VIII Research Scholar Program and Combined Research & Language Training Program:* Awards of \$5,000 to \$25,000 for field research, or for 10 hours per week of intensive language training in addition to field research in Russia, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. *Deadlines: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).*

*Title VIII Southeast Europe Research and Language programs:* Support for three to nine months of intensive language study or research throughout Southeast Europe. *Deadlines: October 1 (Spring & Summer); January 15 (Fall & Academic Year).*

*Advanced Russian Language & Area Studies and Eurasian Regional Language programs:* Intensive, immersion-based

language instruction in Armenian, Azeri, Buryat, Chechen, Dari, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Persian, Romanian, Russian, Tajik, Tatar, Turkmen, Tuvan, Ukrainian, Uzbek, and Yakut. *Deadlines: October 1 (Spring); March 1 (Summer); April 1 (Fall & Academic Year).*

*Contemporary Russia Program:* Area-studies program for teachers, university students, and professional at all levels of Russian-language proficiency, including those with no prior language training. Program hosted at the State University: Higher School of Economics in Moscow for five weeks during the summer. *Deadline: March 15.*

#### *Overseas Flagship Language Program*

Intensive language training for U.S. students who wish to attain “distinguished” or “superior” (ILR 3, 3+, 4) language skills. Programs available for the study of Arabic (12 months), Central Asian languages (Academic Year), Persian (Academic Year), or Russian (Academic Year). *Deadline: January 31.*

For more information on eligibility for all of these programs, please contact American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, Russia and Eurasia Outbound Programs, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036; phone: (202) 833-7522

#### **Funding opportunity: Woodrow Wilson International Center Research Scholarships and Short-Term Grants**

The Kennan Institute offers 3- to 9-month **Research Scholarships** to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States). Research Scholarships are available to academic participants in the early stages of their career (before tenure) or scholars whose careers have been interrupted or delayed. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected. Eligibility is limited to the postdoctoral level for academic participants, although doctoral candidates in the process of completing a dissertation may apply (the dissertation must be successfully defended before scholars take residence at the Kennan Institute). Policy-relevant proposals are particularly welcome. Research proposals examining topics in Eurasian studies are eligible as well. The Research Scholar grant offers a stipend of \$3,000 per month, research facilities, word processing support, and some research assistance. Grant recipients are required to be in residence at the Institute in Washington, D.C., for the duration of their grant. Awards are limited to scholars who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents

upon commencement of their scholarship. One round of competitive Title VIII Research Scholar selection is held per year.

*The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1.* Decisions on appointments will be made in February; grantees are able to commence their appointments as early as July. In past years, the Kennan Institute awarded Research Scholarships to one in eight applicants. The Research Scholarship Program is supported by the Russian, Eurasian, and East European Research and Training Program of the U.S. Department of State (Title VIII). Continuation of the Research Scholarship Program in 2007-2008 is contingent on future funding.

Applications can be downloaded from the Institute's web site: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan>). To request a print application or for further information, please contact Megan Yasenchak, tel.: 202-691-4100, fax: 202-691-4247, e-mail: [megan.yasenchak@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:megan.yasenchak@wilsoncenter.org), mailing address: The Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004-3027.

The Kennan Institute offers *Short-Term Grants* (up to one month's duration) to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States), and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C., area. Policy-relevant research is preferred. Academic participants must either possess a doctoral degree or be doctoral candidates who have nearly completed their dissertations. For nonacademics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected. Short-term Grants provide a stipend of \$100 per day.

The Kennan Institute cannot provide office space for Short-Term scholars. Travel and accommodation expenses are not directly covered by this grant. There is no official application form for Short-Term Grants. The applicant is requested to submit a concise description (700-800 words) of his or her research project, a curriculum vitae, a statement on preferred dates of residence in Washington, D.C., and two letters of recommendation specifically in support of the research to be conducted at the Institute. All of these materials may be submitted via e-mail except for the letters of recommendation. The letters should be sent, with signature, either by fax or post. Applicants should also note their citizenship or permanent residency status in their materials. Applications should be submitted in clear dark type, printed on one side only, without staples. Grant recipients are required to be in residence in Washington,

D.C., for the duration of their grant.

Four rounds of competitive selection for Short-Term Grants are held each year. *Closing dates are December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1.* Applicants are notified of the competition results roughly seven weeks after the closing date. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and non-Americans are eligible for Short-Term Grants, although funding for non-American applicants is limited. Approximately one in three American applicants and one in six non-American applicants are awarded Short-Term Grants in each of the four competition rounds.

The Short-Term Grant Program is supported by the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the former Soviet Union (Title VIII) of the U.S. Department of State and the Kennan Institute endowment. Continuation of the Short-Term Grant Program in 2007-2008 is contingent on future funding. Non-US citizen Short-Term grant winners must be outside of the U.S. before coming to Washington, DC to accept the grant in order to be issued a J-1 Visa. J-1 Visas cannot be issued to individuals in the U.S. on a different visa. Please send all application materials to: The Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-3027. For more information, please e-mail: [edita.krunkaityte@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:edita.krunkaityte@wilsoncenter.org), call 202-691-4100, or fax 202-691-4247. For more information about this grant program please visit: [www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan).

#### **Funding opportunity: Open Society Fellowship**

The Open Society Institute has recently launched a new fellowship program to support outstanding idea entrepreneurs from around the world. The Open Society Fellowship will enable innovative professionals — including journalists, activists, scholars, and practitioners — to work on projects that inspire meaningful public debate, shape public policy, as well as generate intellectual ferment within OSI.

The fellowship focuses on four areas: National Security and the Open Society; Citizenship, Membership and Marginalization; Strategies and Tools for Advocacy and Citizen Engagement; and Understanding Authoritarianism. Fellows' projects may include books, articles, outreach for documentary films, online media, and efforts to seed new campaigns and organizations. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and there is no deadline. More details and the link to apply online are at: [http://www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship/focus\\_areas/guidelines](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship/focus_areas/guidelines). Email: [osfellows@sorosny.org](mailto:osfellows@sorosny.org).

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Nicole Monnier  
German & Russian Studies  
428A Strickland Hall  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211

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## Association for Women in Slavic Studies

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*WEW* is a newsletter sponsored by the AAASS-affiliated Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) as a networking resource for people concerned with the problems, status, and achievements of women in the profession. It also attempts to cover research and teaching in women's studies and questions of gender and family life in Central/Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

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](mailto: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.

Editor Nicole Monnier (German & Russian Studies, 428A Strickland Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, 65211; Fax: 573.884.8456; Ph: 573.882.3370; Email: [monniern@missouri.edu](mailto:monniern@missouri.edu)) welcomes contributions to *WEW*, such as letters; short articles; contributions to the "Mentoring" and "Trailblazers" columns; comments on personal and professional issues; news and queries about projects underway; book reviews and bibliographic entries from all members and other interested individuals. Please send in Word or text-file attachments. Deadlines are 15 September, 15 December, 15 March and 15 June for issues to appear approximately three weeks later.