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or contributions to Claire Shaw.

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British Association for Slavonic  
and East European Studies



@BASEES

## President's Report

AGM, 6th April 2014

1. This is my first annual report to the Association's AGM as President and I must begin by thanking my fellow committee members for their work; it is a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic and agreeable collection of people. Each of them has made a significant contribution to the work of BASEES over the past year, but I hope it is not remiss to single out three people who have worked especially hard on behalf of the Association. Jon Oldfield has exercised careful stewardship of the Association's finances, keeping us on a sound footing, while Melanie Ilic has taken over as Membership Secretary and is engaged in putting our membership system into a more business-like condition. Matthias Neumann has taken the lead in launching a new BASEES website, alongside continuing the taxing task of organising our annual conference.

Especial thanks are also due to those members of the committee who are standing down at this AGM. Dagmar Divjak has organised the linguistics panels for the annual conference since 2010 and ensured that this important area of our discipline has been properly represented at our gatherings. Brendan McGeever has worked as postgraduate representative on the committee, organising events specifically for research students and improving communications with, and between graduate students. During the year, Birgit Beumers relinquished her responsibilities for the BASEES website: her contribution to enhancing the profile of BASEES has been invaluable. I am most grateful for their efforts on behalf of the Association.

2. BASEES has continued its work to promote the study of our region through its regular activities. The 2013 annual conference, organised as a European Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies, was a great success, attracting nearly 500 people to Cambridge for three days of lectures and discussions. Fitzwilliam College and Churchill College have continued to provide a congenial setting for our annual



gathering, and I am most grateful to the Fellows and staff of both colleges for their hospitality. BASEES has continued to develop its relationship with Taylor & Francis through the publication of the BASEES/Routledge monograph series on Russian and Eastern European Studies and Europe-Asia Studies. We are very grateful to Taylor & Francis for their sponsorship of the drinks reception before the conference annual dinner.

The Association has continued, through its R & D committee, to make small grants to postgraduate students to assist them in carry out research abroad and to present papers at conferences: this is one of the most important ways in which BASEES can help to develop new generations of scholars. Financial support has also been provided to study groups that specialise in particular aspects of our area; it is worth noting that this year the Study Group on the Russian Revolution held its 40th annual meeting.

During the autumn, BASEES completed the transition to a new website. The new format allows for a much greater variety of material about the Association's activities to be available both to members and to a wider audience. The work of refining the website is continuing with the intention of it becoming an important resource for information not just about BASEES, but also about the broader scholarly environment surrounding Slavonic and East European Studies. The new BASEES website offers a particularly good opportunity to publicise research students' work more >>

## Conferences and Calls for Papers

### Call for Papers: Study Group for Russian and Eastern European Music (REEM) Annual Conference 2014: Music and Empire in East-Central Europe Durham University

4 October 2014

Abstracts of no more than 400 words and short biographical notes (of no more than 200 words) should be sent to [reemstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:reemstudygroup@gmail.com) by 2 June 2014.

### Call for Papers: ICCEES World Congress Makuhari, Japan

August 3-8, 2015

The deadline for proposals for panels, roundtables, and individual papers is 31 May 2014. More information can be found at: [src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/iccees2015/index.html](http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/iccees2015/index.html)

### BASEES Annual Conference

28-30 March 2015

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

Call for papers will go out in May:

[www.basees.org](http://www.basees.org)

### SLAVONICA

BASEES members are offered a special subscription rate to Slavonica. The annual rate for a print and online subscription for BASEES members is £29. Further details can be found at: [www.maneyonline.com/pricing/sla](http://www.maneyonline.com/pricing/sla)

### OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford University Press is pleased to offer BASEES members a special 20% discount on all related titles in Soviet and East European studies. This offer is available exclusively online until 31 December 2020. For more details, see: [ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/academic/promotions/humanities/webbasees.do?code=webbasees](http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/academic/promotions/humanities/webbasees.do?code=webbasees)

### EUROPE-ASIA STUDIES

Special reduced subscription rate to Europe-Asia Studies for BASEES members. The annual rate for BASEES members is £52 (\$86) for ten issues. Full details can be found in the small print under "pricing information" on the subscription page of the website: [www.tandfonline.com/pricing/journal/ceas20#.U155tPnZU4M](http://www.tandfonline.com/pricing/journal/ceas20#.U155tPnZU4M)

>> effectively and to show the wide range of postgraduate work in our field. This year also sees the inaugural award of the new BASEES prize for the best scholarly article by a postgraduate student. The first winner of the prize is Lukasz Szulc for his article 'From queer to gay to Queer.pl: The names we dare to speak in Poland' published in *Lambda Nordica*. The prize is intended to further raise the profile of postgraduate studies in our area and I look forward to it becoming an established part of the postgraduate environment.

3. The committee regularly engages with other organisations to which we are affiliated, or which play an important role in the teaching and research of our members, and which regularly take up important issues affecting our scholarly community. BASEES has been represented at meetings organised by the Academy of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Arts and Humanities User Group and the British Academy at which the views of subject associations and learned societies have been sought on a variety of topics. The development of policies on Open Access has continued to be a topic of wide concern to the scholarly community and BASEES has played its part in making representations to government and to the funding councils on the subject. HEFCE's recently published policy on Open Access and future REF exercises shows evidence of influence from the academic world and demonstrates the value of the concerted approach taken by learned societies in the arts, humanities and social sciences. BASEES has engaged with a number of specific areas of discussion during the past year.

The Association has taken part in a study undertaken by the Academy of Social Sciences to evaluate the role of learned societies in the UK, and it has also contributed to consultations on the changes to the school curriculum in England

(with particular emphases on the role of modern languages) and on gender issues in arts, humanities and sciences in British academia. The Association has also made representations to the government of the Russian Federation in support of The Levada Centre – one of the premier sociological research institutes in Russia. The centre found itself the subject of investigation by the Moscow prosecutor during 2013.

A number of BASEES members have worked closely with the Levada Centre over the years and its work has received considerable international praise. BASEES was able to make representations to the Russian government, demonstrating the wide international recognition that the Levada Centre has gained and emphasising the benefits that the Russian academic community gains from its international links. The situation remains difficult for Levada and similar organisations, and it is very much in our interests to support their work.

4. Last, it is sad to report the deaths of two eminent scholars. Professor Peter Frank, who died in November 2013, was a prominent political scientist who chaired NASEES (one of the two organisations that came together to form BASEES). He played a major part in the development of the University of Essex and helped to train a new generation of scholars in our field. Professor Richard Peace, who died in December 2013, was a leading scholar of classical Russian literature who played a vital role in the student exchange programme that formed part of the cultural diplomacy between the UK and the USSR. He served as president of BUAS – the second of the organisations that merged to establish BASEES. Full tributes to both men are appearing in the BASEES newsletter.

**Peter Waldron**  
President, BASEES, and  
Professor of Modern History,  
University of East Anglia

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## XV International Congress of Slavists: Minsk, August 2013

The XV International Congress of Slavists was held in Minsk, 20-27 August 2013. Delegates of 32 countries took part and there were 73 sessions of papers on linguistics, 42 sessions on literature, culture and folklore, 3 sessions on the history of Slavonic studies, 25 thematic panels, two round tables, meetings of the 35 commissions which operate under the aegis of the International Committee of Slavists, and a number of book launches. As on previous occasions, the UK was assigned a quota of 15 delegates. However

the number of papers offered was a total of 9, including the plenary paper which Professor Arnold McMillin was invited to give by the organizers of the Congress. In the event 5 UK delegates had to withdraw for professional or personal reasons, reducing the number of UK papers to 4. A hard copy of the UK papers has been deposited in the ICS archive at the Slovanská knihovna, Klementinum 190, 110 00 Praha, CZ. The XVI International Congress of Slavists is to be held in Belgrade in 2018.  
C. M. MacRobert

## Routledge at BASEES

It was great to see many of you at the annual BASEES conference in April – we hope you enjoyed browsing the books we had on offer. We launched two exciting new titles at the conference, details of which you will find below. If you would like to order these books you can receive a special 20% discount through [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com) – simply enter the code **BASMAY14** at the checkout.

### **The Informal Post-Socialist Economy Embedded Practices and livelihoods**

Edited by **Jeremy Morris and Abel Polese**

'This book is essential reading not only for those who seek a nuanced understanding of the nature of informal economic practices but also those interested in acquiring a deeper appreciation of this most fascinating of regions, the world that abandoned communism, often without implementing a sustainable alternative. Illuminating and frequently surprising, even for those intimate with the region, this superb collection is destined to become the standard work for those intrigued by these vital economic practices that lie just beneath the surface or out of public view throughout the post-communist world.'  
Donnacha Ó Beacháin, Dublin City University, Ireland

For more details visit

[www.routledge.com/9780415854917](http://www.routledge.com/9780415854917)

### **Punk in Russia**

#### **Cultural mutation from the "useless" to the "moronic"**

Ivan Gololobov, Hilary Pilkington and Yngvar B Steinholt

This book, based on extensive original research, examines the nature of punk culture in contemporary Russia, exploring the vibrant punk music scenes and the social relations underpinning them in three contrasting Russian cities. It relates punk to wider contemporary culture and uses the Russian example to discuss more generally what constitutes 'punk' today.

For more details visit [www.routledge.com/9780415730136](http://www.routledge.com/9780415730136)

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# BASEES Conference 2014

The annual BASEES conference was held on 5-7 April 2014

Building on the success of the 2013 European Congress, organised jointly with ICCEES, the conference welcomed a record 430 delegates from 42 countries to Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Over the course of the three days, delegates gave papers on a wide variety of new research relating to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including religious thought, history, politics, sociology and geography, linguistics, literature, culture and film, from the medieval period to the present day.

The conference took place at a pivotal moment in the contemporary politics of the region; as a result, the keynote sessions were particularly topical and extremely well-attended. Professor Judith Pallot opened the conference with an examination of Russian carceral practices, asking the provocative question 'Would Pussy Riot Have Been Better Off in Guantanamo?' The first day's proceedings were followed by a roundtable discussion on the current political situation in Ukraine, in which Rory Finin, Luke March and Anton Shekhovtsov gave their take on current events and their implications for the relationship between Russia and the West. Later in the evening, the former Belorussian presidential candidate Andrei Sannikov discussed politics with former BASEES president Stephen Hutchings. On Sunday evening, Professor Piotr Piotrowski spoke about East European art and Post-Colonialism. Podcasts of all the keynotes will shortly be available to download from the BASEES website: [www.basees.org/conference-podcasts](http://www.basees.org/conference-podcasts).

Alongside the panels and papers, the weekend saw many opportunities for colleagues to meet and socialise. A drinks reception was held by Edinburgh University Press to celebrate the launch of the 'Russian Language and Society' book series, edited by Lara Riazanova-Clarke. Sunday evening saw the official conference dinner, which began with drinks sponsored by the Taylor and Francis Group, publishers of the Routledge/BASEES book series.

Following the dinner, BASEES president Peter Waldron presented the Nove and Blazyca prizes, and awarded the inaugural BASEES Student Prize to Lukasz Szulc (for details of these awards, see p.4). The after-dinner speaker, Professor David McDonald discussed his role as one of the editors-in-chief of the major international project 'Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914-1922'. The conference also hosted the BASEES Annual General Meeting, which discussed the formation of a women's committee within BASEES: further details and consultation about this new organisation will be sent to members in the coming months.

Particular thanks must go to Matthias Neumann, the subject stream editors, and Suzy and Charlie Howes for their expert organisation and smooth running of the conference. We look forward to welcoming delegates to Cambridge again on 28-30 March 2015.

Claire Shaw

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## Student Think Tank launched at University of Glasgow

**A student think tank called EURASIAN IDEAS has been launched at the University of Glasgow. The think tank project is run by students who are united in their enthusiasm to promote research and discourse on Eastern Europe and the newly independent states of Eurasia.**

**EURASIAN IDEAS**

EURASIAN IDEAS provides analysis and advocates informed discussion of contemporary issues that concern Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The idea behind the think tank is to

bring together students and graduates from different nationalities, backgrounds and degree stages who are eager to apply their class knowledge to a dynamic project and to make their research focus available to a wider audience.

Young academics interested in contributing to EURASIAN IDEAS are invited to submit relevant papers for publication on the think tank website. Frequent contributions are welcome and interested authors can receive their own blog on EURASIAN IDEAS' website.

More information on the project and how to contribute can be found here: [www.eurasianideas.org](http://www.eurasianideas.org) as well as on the think tank's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/eurasianideas](http://www.facebook.com/eurasianideas).

# BASEES prizes – awarded at the 2014 Annual Conference

## Alexander Nove Prize, 2012

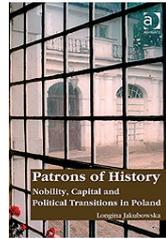


Awarded to Sarah Oates (University of Maryland, USA) for *Revolution Stalled: The Political Limits of the Internet in the Post-Soviet Sphere* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

'There is no more important topic in Post-Soviet Studies than the complex relationship between the new global communication environment and the prospects for democratic change in Putin's Russia. Any book proposing to assess that relationship needs to be informed by a profound understanding of the competing tensions shaping the Russian political landscape, and underpinned by a thorough grasp of the relevant media theories. Sarah Oates has written just such a book. [...] Sarah's analysis identifies an emergent online civil society at Russia's grassroots, whilst showing how authoritarian states can co-opt web-based communication modes for repressive purposes. The radical new modes of political networking explored in the final chapter ensure that, ultimately, *Revolution Stalled* strikes the perfect balance between hope and caution, certainty and doubt.'

Jury: Terry Cox and David Shepherd

## George Blazycza Prize, 2012



Awarded to Longina Jakubowska (Utrecht University, Netherlands) for *Patrons of History. Nobility, Capital and Political Transitions in Poland* (Ashgate, 2012).

'The author succeeds admirably in presenting original research in a way that both engages the reader and introduces a fresh perspective on twentieth century Polish history. The book is the product of 15 years of interviews conducted with members of the Polish gentry as well as archival research and observation. [...] While providing many unusual vignettes of life in Poland, it also contributes to an understanding of the complexities of post-communist politics by analysing how social capital can be transferred even through a protracted period of radical change. She illustrates how the 'symbolic capital' of class has remained important and the gentry have overcome their former disempowerment. [...] Jakubowska has succeeded in getting beyond a narrow focus on ethnicity and national identity as markers of difference and presented the reader with a different set of stories about contemporary Poland.'

Jury: Cathie Carmichael and Karen Henderson

## BASEES Student Prize 2013



Awarded to Lukasz Szulc (University of Antwerp, Netherlands) for "From Queer to Gay to Queer.pl: The Names We Dare to Speak in Poland" in *lamda nordica* 4/2012.

'This topical, relevant and methodologically interesting article addresses an issue that, while seemingly not in the spotlight of contemporary Slavonic studies, in fact sheds significant light on important social, discursive and ideational developments. The author does an admirable job of integrating several analytical narratives – one geographically and temporally local to today's Poland, one situated in the broader context of post-socialist 'transition', and one more generally global – into a compelling exploration that says as much about processes of social transformation in Poland as it does about the LGBT movement in that country. Moreover, the article presents significant original research, making effective use of archived online discussions as an unadulterated historical record, thus adding to both our stock of knowledge and our level of understanding.'

Jury: Luke March and Samuel Greene

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## Professor Peter Frank, 1934-2013

**BASEES is sorry to record the death, on 14 November 2013, of Peter Frank, emeritus professor of Russian Government at the University of Essex, and sometime chairman of NASEES (one of the two professional associations that united to form BASEES in 1989).**

Born in 1934 into a working-class family in Whitby, he worked as a bicycle mechanic on leaving school, but later studied in evening classes and became a schoolteacher. In common with many of his generation, his career took a decisive turn when during his national service he was selected to learn Russian at the Joint Services School for Linguists. Back in civvy street, with the support and encouragement of his wife Mary, he entered the Russian Department at Leeds University in 1960. There he was influenced by Alfred Dressler, under whom he embarked on postgraduate work in 1963. When Dressler fell terminally ill in the

autumn of 1964, Peter took over some of his history classes and was later appointed Assistant Lecturer in the department.

In 1968 he was lured to the new University of Essex, already committed to a range of Soviet and Russian language programmes and research projects. With Geoffrey Hosking, Mary McAuley, David Lane and others, he developed these programmes and established an M.A. in Soviet Government that trained a number of young scholars who went on to stellar careers in academia. Inspired by the strong research ethos at Essex, Peter engaged in innovative work on Communist Party officials at the regional level, and this led to collaboration with Ronald J. Hill to produce a standard textbook *The Soviet Communist Party*, which went into three editions. He was a long-time committee member of NASEES, and took over as chairman when the original convenor, Michael Kaser, retired from that position. He was later disappointed to witness the amalgamation of NASEES and BUAS, but stoically accepted the result.

Alongside his devoted teaching and his research interests, in 1970 Peter embarked on a broadcasting career. It began with a six-part BBC radio series, "In Russia Today", and Peter quickly earned a reputation as a reliable and effective commentator on radio and television news. He became the "resident sovietologist" for Channel Four News, which he continued following his formal retirement from Essex.

In retirement he also brought to fruition a long-term project on the fishing community of his native Whitby coast, using oral history methods also pioneered at Essex. This led to *Yorkshire Fisherfolk* (2002) and a spin-off work, *Sea Painter*, on the life of the marine artist J.R. Bagshawe (2010).

Peter was a much-admired figure, who commanded the respect of his professional colleagues, students, journalists and broadcasters, and of a wider public to whom he was able to speak with a refreshing directness.