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Editorial information

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 British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies

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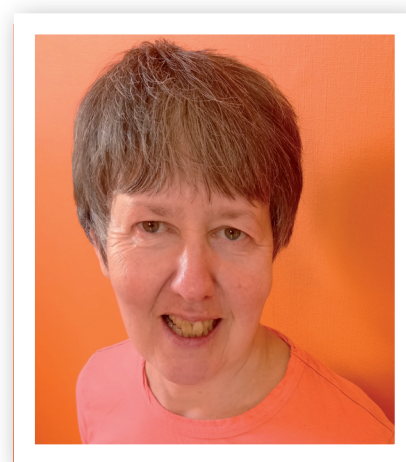
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President's Report

I want to begin by thanking Matthias Neumann for his work as BASEES President during these extraordinarily difficult and demanding times. Matthias's leadership has been exemplary: thoughtful, considered, collegial. I know how much members have appreciated the work he has done for our association.

It is great to know that he is continuing in his role as academic conference organiser: a Call for Papers for our next Annual Conference at Robinson College, Cambridge, 5-7 April 2024, will be issued in July.

As Matthias wrote in his last editorial, the ongoing war of Russia against Ukraine has heightened awareness among scholars in our field of the need to re-evaluate many aspects of the disciplines we work in. Today, the complex relationship between language and identity has been highlighted by conflicting interpretations of what language use means for national belonging. There are reports that Ukrainians whose first language is Russian are increasingly choosing to switch to Ukrainian, while representatives of the Russian state declare Ukrainian speakers of Russian part of a 'Russian world' and simultaneously applaud acts of unspeakable aggression against them. Researchers in the discipline to which I belong, traditionally known as modern languages, are looking at the study of Slavonic and East European languages and cultures with renewed attention to the role of empire building – and the unmaking of empire – in shaping the way issues of language, culture, and society are understood. The literatures and cultures of nations no longer under Russian imperial rule are rightly beginning to receive greater attention. It should also now be much harder to study literature written in the Russian language without being aware of the ways in which habits of mind shaped by empire have erased layers that make up many artists' and writers' rich and complex cultural identities.



As a discipline, modern languages is currently engaged in some serious thinking about what to call itself so that it reflects more fully what researchers actually do. The Institute for Modern Languages Research in London has recently become the Institute for Languages, Cultures, and Societies, and decided to extend and diversify the work it does beyond its traditionally Eurocentric remit. In the spring I had a preliminary discussion with a member of the Institute's Advisory Board about organising a joint event in 2024, which would be centred on the cultures and societies that our members study, while exploring themes that would bring us into dialogue with researchers into other cultures. The Institute's particular emphasis on postcolonial and migration studies, and the environmental humanities may provide productive points of contact and potential collaboration.

Most, if not all researchers involved in our field of study have something in common: they need to be supported in developing the language skills that will enable to access and analyse texts, conduct fieldwork, and liaise with international colleagues in other countries. I am happy to acknowledge that members who are first-language English speakers are doing their bit to chip away at the anglophones' monoglot reputation by tackling a whole range of languages that are rarely taught in schools. Language skills are vital for international academic exchange of the kind being showcased by Ukrainian colleagues, former and current fellows of the BASEES/RHS Scholars-at-Risk scheme, in a series of **BASEES Talks**. At this year's Annual Conference I was impressed by >>

>> the clarity and style with which participants from many different countries presented their research. It made me wonder how much first-language speakers of English appreciate the additional demands entailed in being able to function at this level of sophistication in a second or third language.

Although multilingualism is a feature of human culture across the world, the domination of the English language has obscured this reality for first-language speakers of English who are encouraged to accept the idea that they do not need to learn another language, since 'everybody speaks English', and English speakers are no good at learning languages anyway. Our members, whatever their first language may be, demonstrate that proficiency in other languages is both desirable and possible. The extent to which such proficiency is achievable in the UK appears to be increasingly in doubt; there is nothing new in expressions of concern over the future for language learning here, but no end to reports of university language programmes closing down.

Becky Muradás-Taylor's article in *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education* (2023) points to a 'widening participation crisis' that means many young people are unable to access undergraduate language programmes in England. Staff in the Arts and Humanities in several UK universities face the prospect of redundancy, including at Brighton and East Anglia, including colleagues in UEA's Department of Language and Communication Studies.

Given the unpromising direction of travel in language learning in UK universities, and the importance of language skills for the work of many BASEES members, I am interested in finding out more about the extent to which language training needs of postgraduate and early career researchers are currently being met. The CEELBAS Language Repository offers [open access resources](#) to support language training for researchers in the social sciences and the humanities in Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Georgian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, and Ukrainian. Individual institutions in the UK may offer their own opportunities for language

training: judging from my own institution, I would guess that this might often be done through *ad hoc* arrangements. This is something that will be discussed by the BASEES Committee, with a view to finding out more about the situation and what might be done to help.

By way of conclusion I would like to make members aware of a welcome initiative by undergraduate students who are studying subjects related to our field: the Undergraduate British Association of Slavonic, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies ([UBASEECAS](#)). It has been set up to provide a platform for undergraduates at UK institutions who are interested in the languages, cultures, and current events of these regions. Let's hope that we'll be welcoming some of their current members into BASEES when they pursue their interests through postgraduate study.

Katharine Hodgson



BASEES Polish Studies Prize

Winner:

J. Mackenzie Pierce (University of Michigan) for 'Global Chopin: The 1949 Centenary and Polish Internationalism during the Early Cold War,' *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, 75(3), 2022, pp. 487-545.

actors (including non-Communist groups in Poland) which mobilised together for the international Chopin Year. This well-researched article engages readers with its thought-provoking analysis, presenting novel interpretations and nuanced understandings of the global networks of the early Cold War. In doing so, it offers a compelling model which brings Polish and global history into dialogue with one another.

Honourable mention:

Natalia Jarska and Agata Ignaciuk, 'Marriage, Gender and Demographic Change: Managing Fertility in State-Socialist Poland' *Slavic Review*, 81(1), 2022, pp. 142-162.

The Jury would also like to commend the article co-authored by Natalia Jarska and Agata Ignaciuk for generating new insights into the fertility management practices in socialist Poland by skillfully analysing a vast array of primary sources.

Judges:

Professor Natalia Nowakowska (University of Oxford)
Dr Katarzyna Nowak (Central European University)

BASEES Polish Studies Group is very pleased to announce the 2023 winner of its annual prize, having received a high number of excellent articles and books chapters by both established and emerging scholars in the broadly understood field of Polish Studies.

J. Mackenzie Pierce's original and inspiring article explores Polish Cold War internationalism through the lens of the 1949 Chopin Year. By delving into post-World War II musicology and musical diplomacy, the author has skilfully navigated through complex historical, social, and political landscapes to unveil a captivating story of the Chopin celebration as a large-scale cultural mobilization in state-socialist Poland. Drawing on a rich array of archival sources from Polish ministries, musical institutions, and diplomatic missions, Pierce analyses with precision the changing image of Chopin in Polish nationalism and politics from the 1840s to 1940s, and maps out the

Inclusivity in Slavonic & East European Studies



In the most recent instalment of a continuing series, Serian Carlyle (UCL SSEES) speaks to scholars and activists working to diversify and decolonise the Slavic and East European Studies field...

Marius Turda is a British-Romanian historian. He is Professor and Director of the Centre for Medical Humanities at Oxford Brookes University, having previously taught at UCL and the University of Oxford. He is the founding director of the Cantemir Institute at the University of Oxford (2012-13) and founder of the Working Group in the History of Race and Eugenics (2006). In 2020, he established Romania's first Centre for the History of Eugenics and Racism at the Institute of History 'G. Baritiu' in Cluj. He has authored, co-authored and edited more than 25 books on the history of eugenics, race, and racism in East-Central Europe and beyond. He is the General Editor of Bloomsbury's *A Cultural History of Race* (2021). Between 2018 and 2022, he also curated four exhibitions on eugenics, racial anthropology and biopolitics. He was one of the main consultants for the acclaimed BBC documentary 'Eugenics: Science's Greatest Scandal' (2019). His most recent public engagement project is www.confront-eugenics.org.

Tell us a little about the Confront Eugenics project - how did it come to be?

This public history project focusing on the history of eugenics was devised to accompany the exhibition 'We are not Alone: Legacies of Eugenics' which I created in 2021 to mark a century since the influential Second International Eugenics Congress was organised at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. A century later, I wanted to engage with the legacies of eugenics across time and space and to reflect on what eugenics means for us today. This remains a sensitive and emotional issue for many people, not least because for so long eugenics has reinforced discriminatory practices based on race, class, gender, disability and age. The project has offered the platform for sustained institutional reflection and seeded discussion amongst academics, health professional and public institutions such as the Royal College of Psychiatry, UCL's Institute of Education - with far reaching implications.

What are the next steps for the project? How can people get involved?

Since it opened in London in September 2021, the exhibition has travelled to Romania (Bucharest, Cluj and Iasi) and Poland (Warsaw) and was included in a major conference on eugenics and scientific racism hosted by the National Human Genome Research Institute (USA). Earlier this year, important institutions in the UK such as the Royal College of Psychiatrists and UCL hosted the exhibition. In spring 2023 the exhibition then travelled to Stockholm (Sweden) and onwards to Harvard and Boston (USA). People and institutions get involved by hosting the exhibition. Together we can explore ways to bring new audiences into the discussion about the history of eugenics, and hopefully encourage them to engage and confront the legacies of eugenics locally, nationally and globally.

In an ideal world, what would an inclusive and representative field look like for you?

Eugenic speculations about social norms, cultural, ethnic and gender differences, and intellectual achievement continued to influence policies in many countries in Central and Eastern Europe after 1945. But how many historians of that region know, for example, that ethnic minorities such as the Roma continued to be sterilized not only during the 1970s but also during the 1980s and 1990s? Not even the impact of eugenic and racist thinking on nation-building programmes during the interwar period is known and well understood. An inclusive and representative scholarship therefore needs to come to terms with the history of eugenics. It must be recognised that eugenics was an integral aspect of the history of this region rather than a 'historical anomaly' and something to be identified only with the Nazi regime.

What are some next steps that would help us in achieving that goal?

The first step is to recognise publicly those wronged in the past and of those who continue to be mistreated in the present in the name of eugenics and racism. It is a slow process, but progress is being made. Victims of sterilisation in the Czech Republic, for instance, are finally receiving official apologies and being provided with financial compensation. Human rights everywhere must be respected and no eugenic discrimination against people belonging to religious, ethnic, and sexual minorities, or of those living with disabilities, should be allowed to happen again. Historically disenfranchised groups such as the Roma must be empowered, and racism rejected unhesitatingly.

BASEES Supported Events

LGBTQ+ Studies at Risk Conference

BASEES provided support for the LGBTQ+ Studies at Risk conference held at UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) and the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) on 23-24 March 2024.

The inspiration for the “LGBTQ+ Studies at Risk” conference theme emerged with the realisation that outside of our fields of study, queer scholars working in challenging environments have very limited knowledge and connections to those studying similar topics in other regions. We recognised the wealth of regional knowledge to be shared, especially as many researchers face the same challenges, including homophobia, state repression, along with security and privacy concerns. The conference’s aim was to address this disconnectedness, bring researchers of queer topics closer together, share expertise, and workshop a way to stay connected long-term.

The conference included workshops, panels, roundtables, and a keynote address. Two of the workshops—the first on digital security and information management, and the second on managing vicarious trauma as a researcher—were taught by specialists from the University of Oxford: Toni Collins and Sarah Waters from the University of Oxford Information Security department, and Maureen Freed from the University of Oxford Counseling Service respectively. We are extremely grateful that these renowned specialists, who were beyond enthusiastic about coming to London and conducting workshops for postgraduate scholars and early career researchers.

The third workshop was a collaborative workshop led by conference co-organiser Talia Kollek on ethics and consent in queer research, and how we might develop best practices for our specific needs in the field. The three workshops became a space to connect, learn and relate to each other and the common problems we share. The vicarious trauma workshop in particular was deeply insightful as it covered a topic that is rarely discussed in academia and yet affected almost everyone in the room: how to process second-hand trauma as you work with difficult topics and marginalised populations, often times while being a part of those communities yourself.

The panels were on the study of LGBTQ+ communities in exile and diaspora, and youth, education, and parenting. The roundtable addressed the study of LGBTQ+ minorities and the decolonisation of queer studies.

The goal of the keynote address was to draw on the experiences of LGBTQ+ researchers working in Hong Kong to explore the question “how can LGBTQ+ researchers adapt to rapidly changing environments?” The speaker, Professor Yiu-Tung Suen, is an Associate Professor of Gender Studies, Public Health, and Primary care at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. A second goal of the keynote was to spark dialogue between researchers studying Russia and Hong Kong, with connection of democratic backsliding and conditions for queer people in both environments a natural starting point for academic collaboration.

At the conclusion of the conference, we held a session on the “Future of LGBTQ+ Studies,” and set the goal of further collaboration, including establishing a network of scholars who study LGBTQ+ topics in areas of risk. There has been great enthusiasm and interest from participants in furthering the connections formed at the conference. The feedback we received from the speakers and participants during this session was unanimous: they are extremely grateful for a safe and nurturing space created by the conference and hope to stay connected, be able to come together again in the future. The conference had over thirty attendees and speakers, the vast majority of whom attended in person. One of the main goals of the conference was to bring together scholars from different regions for knowledge sharing and collaboration purposes. We brought together scholars studying Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Hong Kong, China, and Brazil, among others.

The event was co-funded by the London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP), the Institute of Advanced Studies Octagon Small Grant and BASEES.

Polish Study Group – Northern Workshop

On 25-26 May the Polish Studies Group of the British Association for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies held its **fifth annual workshop**. We met on-campus, at the University of Manchester. As with last year, the workshop was also an occasion to officially award the annual Polish Studies Article Prizes.

The mission of the Northern Workshop is to bring together PhD candidates and early career academics, and to showcase the best new research on Poland. Every year we also organise a series of roundtables on the current issues and problems concerning our discipline and our students.

As in 2022, this year we kicked off with a series of presentations by PhD students. Each student was matched with a discussant; an experienced academic who read the work in advance and offered in-depth comments on it. This format is unique and incredibly helpful for research students to progress with their research. Moreover, the workshop was a platform to connect PhD students across the UK and Europe who are researching Poland. For some participants, this was the first such opportunity during their PhD ever; some were returnees from last year.

The PhD-focussed day was capped off with a keynote delivered by the recipient of the second Polish Studies Article Prize, Dr J. Mackenzie Pierce from the University of Michigan. In his masterclass, Dr Pierce focused on the issues of internationalism and fitting the research on Poland into order frameworks of research on the Cold War.

Friday offered sessions designed to inspire and help overcome problems we all encounter in our practice. We listened to a series of presentations on researching Polish politics, the Polish diaspora and on learning Polish. A number of the presentations, as well as the discussions they provoked, centred around the informal theme of this year’s workshop; the global and transnational trends in research on Poland and Poles. >>



New Books in the BASEES/ Routledge Series on Russian and East European Studies

The BASEES/Routledge Series on Russian and East European Studies comprises original, high-quality, research-level work by both new and established scholars on all aspects of Russian, Soviet, post-Soviet and East European Studies in humanities and social science subjects.

Stefan Hedlund
Ukraine, Russia and the West.
When Value Promotion Met Hard
Power (April 2023)

Why did Russia's all-out war against Ukraine come as such a surprise to the West? This is a key question considered by this reflective and wide-ranging book. The book argues that Russia and the West were playing different games: while Russia under Putin had become obsessed with using hard power to restore the Cold War security architecture in Europe, the major Western powers had become equally obsessed with value promotion that would ensure a global triumph for the values of the West, touted as "universal values." The Russian play for spheres of interest was clearly defined and demarcated, the Western play for values was, by definition, without limits. Hence there could be no common ground, no constructive communication, and no common understanding. While Russia convinced itself that it would be successful in forcing the West to accept its claims for a new security order, based on hard power, Western governments deluded themselves into believing that value promotion would transform Russia into a liberal democracy and a rules-based market economy. Examining the full situation, exploring political, military, economic and business spheres, the book provides a deep analysis of how the present confrontation has come about.

<https://www.routledge.com/Ukraine-Russia-and-the-West-When-Value-Promotion-Met-Hard-Power-Hedlund/p/book/9781032396293>

BASEES Supported Events

>> Since its first edition, the Northern Workshop has always offered opportunities for the participants to discuss the challenges and problems we face in our practice. This year we have focused on the issues with which PhD candidates struggle. The session was run jointly by Nathan Alan-Lee from UCL and Josef Butler from KCL. Future editions of the Northern Workshop will aim to address those topics by offering tailored training sessions and meetings with established researchers who can share best practices.

Dr Janek Gryta

Minorities at War – from Napoleon to Putin Conference report

[ba sees]

study group
for minority history

On 11-12 May 2023, the BASEES Study Group for Minority History held its third biannual symposium at the New Europe College in Bucharest, Romania. The objective was to explore the experiences of minorities during times of war, challenging the perpetual and potential victimhood of minorities and emphasising their diverse roles within the context of war across local, national, and regional levels.

The first panel explored different perspectives on imperial history prior to the First World War. Karina Gaibulina (Luxembourg) and Masha Cerovic (Paris) discussed the conquest of Central Asian and formerly Ottoman territories by the Russian Empire, emphasising concepts of borderlands and frontier. Igor Despot (Zagreb) focused on the activities and mobilisation of Arbanasi Albanians during the Balkan Wars, while Jan Rybak (London) examined the responses of Galician Jews to the outbreak of the war, with a focus on gender and generational differences.

The second panel dealt with the Great War. Semion Goldin (Jerusalem) discussed the mistreatment faced by Jews in frontline areas, leading to their expulsion from Galicia under the Russian Army's occupation. Doina Anca Cretu (Prague) explored the plight of Galician Jews confined to refugee camps in wartime Austria, becoming political and

social minorities reliant on international humanitarian and state aid. Mikhail Akulov (Astana) examined how German settlers in southern Ukraine and Crimean Tatars used the war as an opportunity to assert their agency, highlighting the processes of colonisation, decolonisation, and their overlapping dynamics.

The role of minorities in nation-state building during the interwar period was addressed in the third panel, highlighting diverse dimensions of nationalism as a social movement, cultural force, and political ideology. Anna Adorjáni (Vienna) discussed Hungary's post-World War I political reforms, focusing on concepts of national self-determination and minority protection, while Béla Bodó (Bonn) analysed the ethnic and class hierarchies of Jews and Germans in Hungarian nationalism. Tomas Balkelis (Vilnius) examined the active participation of Belarusians in the nation-building process of independent Lithuania.

Maciej Górny's (Warsaw) keynote lecture offered an alternative perspective on majorities during the Great War and the collapse of empires, highlighting the intersection of statistics, science, and national politics.

In the fourth panel, the focuses shifted towards minorities in Romania during and following World War II. Giuseppe Motta (Rome) examined potential dangers and disloyalties of minorities in the new border regions as perceived by the state. Cristina Stoica (London, Canada) explored the resettlement of the Roma community in Transnistria as a form of internal colonialism, while Anca Filipovici (Cluj/Vienna) analysed acts of "soft resistance" by Jewish adolescents and Zionist movements.

The final panel extended its focus from the 1970s up to the present day. Pavlos Ioannis Koktsidis (Cyprus) discussed the Cypriot Turkish minority and the influence of kinstates on their mobilisation and vulnerability. Aleksandar Pavlović (Belgrade) brought attention to the experiences of minorities during the Yugoslav wars. Lesia Bidochko (Kyiv) and Aleksandr Voronovici examined minorities in the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war, highlighting the plight of the Crimean Tatars and the diverse positioning of the Moldovan Gagauz.

The full report and the symposium overview can be [found here](#).

Julia Elena Grieder, University of Basel

Elena Korosteleva, Irina Petrova,
Anastasiia Kudlenko (eds.)
*Belarus in the Twenty-First Century.
Between Dictatorship and Democracy*
(May 2023)

This book presents a comprehensive overview of current developments in Belarus. It explores how there has been an upswelling of popular support for the idea that Belarus must change. It highlights how the old regime, aiming to retain the Soviet legacy, reluctant to reform, presiding over worsening economic conditions and refusing to take measures to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, has been confronted by increasing bottom-up and horizontal social mobilisation which demands a transformation of state-society relations and a new sense of Belarusian peoplehood. The book outlines how the current situation has developed, considers how the present demands for change are deep-seated and long-brewing trends, and reveals much detail about many aspects of the growing societal mobilisation. Overall, the book demonstrates that, although the old regime remains in power, Belarusian society has changed fundamentally, thereby bringing great hope that change will eventually come about.

<https://www.routledge.com/Belarus-in-the-Twenty-First-Century-Between-Dictatorship-and-Democracy/Korosteleva-Petrova-Kudlenko/p/book/9781032318059>

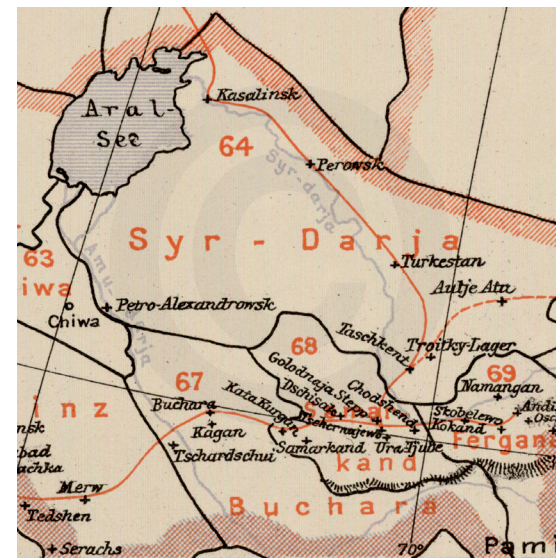
BASEES R&D Grant Funding Report

In the fall semester of 2022, I was a visiting scholar at the Institute of History at the Academy of Sciences in Tashkent, where I worked in the National Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This research, which was supported by a BASEES R&D Grant, allowed me to consult materials that are essential for the completion of my PhD project on the history of displacement and relief in Central Asia during the First World War and the early 1920s.

As archival access in Moscow or St Petersburg is currently not possible, as a field we have had to rethink the way in which we research and write about the Russian Empire and former Soviet Union. At the same time, scholars have recognised the urgent need to de-centre and decolonise these histories and are more than ever turning to the archives and libraries of former Soviet republics. The rich materials available in Tashkent offer an opportunity to approach the history of the Russian Empire 'from the margins' and to consider the history of well-researched events such as the First World War from a different perspective.

I consulted materials from several fonds of the archive's pre-revolutionary collection, which were invaluable for completing the first part of my dissertation, which focuses on displaced persons during the First World War. The first group my work considers are German and Austrian prisoners of war who were interned in Turkestan. Here, like elsewhere in the Russian empire, prisoners of war were subject to regulations issued by the General Staff in Petrograd. In combination with material that I had collected during previous research on Red Cross relief efforts for POWs in Geneva and Berlin, the documents I found in Tashkent highlighted disparities between these central policies and the situation on the ground.

Refugees from Russia's occupied European borderlands began to arrive in Tashkent in large numbers in October 1915. From here they distributed to cities across Turkestan, where local authorities and charities were responsible for their welfare. The various institutions who cared for refugees produced reports of their work, many of which are now held in the national archives in Uzbekistan. These documents provided valuable information on the impact of war and displacement at the local level as well as responses to the arrival of refugees in the region. Though the military government was ultimately responsible for refugees in this region,



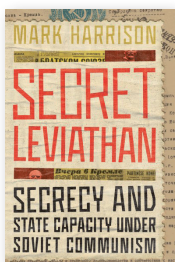
Map showing the locations (crosses) of prisoner of war camps in Turkestan. Hamburg Society of the Red Cross, May 1916. Source: Pamir Archive.

local administrators frequently had to involve the local population. Considering interactions between these three groups can provide new insights on the nature of colonial rule in Turkestan.

I also utilised material pertaining to the period after 1917. In the early 1920s, the region once again became host to refugees fleeing catastrophe in Russia. The rich material on famine relief allows us to follow the trajectory of refugees from the Volga region and demonstrates that due to the large-scale displacement it caused, the famine affected various parts of the nascent Soviet Union. Although the re-evacuation started in 1923, many of them were unable to return home until the following year. At the same time, famine conditions developed in the Fergana region between 1922 and 1924. Thus, the study of relief can add nuance to our current understanding of the spatial and chronological boundaries of the 'Russian' famine of 1921-22.

Hanna Matt

New Books



Mark Harrison, *Secret Leviathan: Secrecy and State Capacity under Soviet Communism. The Stanford-Hoover Series*

on Authoritarianism, Stanford University Press, 2023.

The Soviet Union was one of the most secretive states that ever existed. Defended by a complex apparatus of rules and checks administered by the secret police, the Soviet state had seemingly unprecedented capabilities based on its near monopoly of productive capital, monolithic authority, and secretive decision making. But behind the scenes, Soviet secrecy was double-edged: it raised transaction costs, incentivised indecision, compromised the effectiveness of government officials, eroded citizens' trust in institutions and in each other, and led to a secretive society and an uninformed elite. The result is what this book calls the secrecy/capacity trade-off: a bargain in which the Soviet state accepted the reduction of state capacity as the cost of ensuring its own survival.

This book is the first comprehensive, analytical, multi-faceted history of Soviet secrecy in the English language. Harrison combines quantitative and qualitative evidence to evaluate the impact of secrecy on Soviet state capacity from the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Based on multiple years of research in once-secret Soviet-era archives, this book addresses two gaps in history and social science: one the core role of secrecy in building and stabilizing the communist states of the twentieth century; the other the corrosive effects of secrecy on the capabilities of authoritarian states.

<https://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/9781503628892/Secret-Leviathan>

Use HARRISON20 at checkout for a 20% discount.



Alexandra Smith and Olga Sobolev (eds.) *Film Adaptations of Russian Classics: Dialogism and Authorship* (Edinburgh:

Edinburgh University Press, 2023).

The volume examines several screen adaptations of works written by mid- and late nineteenth-century authors, who constitute the hallmark of the Russian cultural brand, finding favour with audiences in Russia and in the West. It considers reimagining of Goncharov, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Chekhov and Tolstoy in different contexts.

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-film-adaptations-of-russian-classics.html>

Natalia Kabiak *Favourite Soviet Films in the Russian-as-a-foreign language classroom: a textbook* (Moscow: FLINTA, 2022).

[Russian original: Любимые советские фильмы на уроке РКИ : учебное пособие / Н.В. Кабьяк ; науч. ред. Л.Л. Андреева. — Москва : ФЛИНТА, 2022]

The book includes ten chapters dedicated to ten Soviet films made at the *Mosfilm* film studio 1966 and 1985. Each chapter includes a variety of exercises for students learning Russian as a foreign or second language to help to advance their language skills and to prepare for the listening, speaking and writing subtests of the TORFL-2 (B2 in the CEFR) and TORFL-3 (C1) exams. For the first time the textbook includes exercises on recognition and reproduction of popular quotations or 'winged phrases' from Soviet films. The textbook's modular approach to structure offers flexibility for the instructors to choose films and exercises which best suit their particular pedagogical aim. It includes keys to exercises, making the book attractive for self-study.

<https://booksrus.pl/catalog/knigi/uchebnaya-literatura/izuchenie-yazykov/russkiy-yazyk/russkiy-yazyk-kak-inostranny-uchebnye-posobiya/lyubimye-sovetskie-filmy-na-uroke-rki-uchebnoe-posobie/#desc>



**Date for
your diary...**

**BASEES 2024:
Next year's BASEES Conference
will be held 5-7 April at
Robinson College, Cambridge**