



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Center for Russian & East European Studies

Encina Hall, Room 200, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6055

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1991

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CREES Winter Quarter Update

Welcome Visitors

We are indeed fortunate to welcome the distinguished visiting faculty who are teaching at Stanford this Winter Quarter. Vladislav Zubok, Senior Fellow, Academy of Sciences, USSR, is teaching a class with David Holloway in the Department of Political Science, and Victor Zaslavsky, Visiting Professor from Memorial University of Newfoundland, is teaching in the Department of Sociology.

Emil Orzechowski from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, is here to research theatrical history, and will be teaching "Theatre and Politics in Poland" at Slavi-anskii dom in Spring Quarter.

"Contemporary Political Thought in Eastern Europe" will be offered this spring in the Philosophy Department. The course is being taught by Professor Stefan Amsterdamski, from the Polish Academy of Science.

First Exchanges Initiated

The first formal exchanges between CREES and the Moscow State Historical-Archival Institute were launched with the arrival of Tamara Kabochkina in September for a three month stay. Ms. Kabochkina is a specialist on American archival systems and was able to add to her expertise by studying the State of California Archives, the Federal Repository in Burlingame, the Stanford Archives at Green Library, and at Hoover Library.

The next Soviet scholar will arrive later this spring. He is Alexander B. Kamenskii, an archivist with an interest in the socio-political history of the 18th century.

Susan Zayer Rupp, doctoral student in History, will be the Stanford exchange scholar this spring. Her research focuses on the White Movement of 1918. Wojciech Zalewski, Curator of the Slavic and East European Collections in Green Library, will take advantage of one month of the exchange in late summer.

Agreements have also been signed with the Herzen Pedagogical Institute in Leningrad. The first exchanges are expected to start in the fall of 1991.

Any student or faculty member wishing more information on these exchanges should call or stop by the CREES office.

CREES Publication Available

Soviet Nationalities Problems, the publication resulting from last year's Berkeley-Stanford conference is now available. We gratefully acknowledge the gracious cooperation of the authors who have permitted us to publish their remarks.

An order blank for this and other recent CREES publications is provided on page 6 in this Newsletter for your convenience, or you may call or stop by the CREES office.

Obituary

Slavic Department Professor Emeritus Edward Brown, one of the founding fathers of the academic study of Russian literature in the United States, died January 9 after a long illness. He was 81.

Born in 1909 to an Irish family in Chicago, Professor Brown received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and, in 1950, his doctorate from Columbia University.

Joining the Stanford faculty in 1970, Brown provided new dimensions for the Slavic Department's curriculum and founded the departmental library (through a substantial donation of his own books). He continued his vibrant undergraduate and graduate teaching long past his formal retirement in 1975.

His greatest contribution, informed by his intense interest in the interaction of culture and politics, lies in the history of 20th century Russian literature, and the Soviet period in particular. His books are considered classics in the field.

Professor Brown is survived by his wife, Catherine, and daughter, Meredith Loring of Las Cruces, N.M. The family prefers donations to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 26 Church St., Cambridge, Mass. 02238.

Interview: Victor Zaslavsky on Nationalities

Victor Zaslavsky is Professor of Sociology at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. A leading expert on Soviet nationalities affairs, his publications include The Neo-Stalinist State: Class, Ethnicity and Consensus in Soviet Society and Soviet-Jewish Emigration and Soviet Nationality Policy (with R. Brym). He has taught at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Venice, and this year Dr. Zaslavsky is Visiting Professor here at Stanford.

Ian Bremmer is a graduate student in the Department of Political Science.

Ian Bremmer—It is clear that the recent changes in the Soviet Union have increased the study of that country and, it would appear, altered its emphasis. Have the methods used changed, however, or does the post-Cold War period maintain Cold War Sovietology?

Victor Zaslavsky—Major changes are necessary in Sovietology and have occurred. The socialist idea of creating a new world has not worked. Before the advent of the Soviet-type system there was an industrial society organized along very different lines than in the West. Indeed, the traditional Soviet model has failed on practically all counts: rate of innovation, productivity, and satisfaction of human demands. This failure has been recognized. But no matter how Western society is defined, it is the present model for Soviet society. Before, searches for some type of third model were popular, now even these have lost ground.

We therefore need a methodology which explains how to move instead of where we are moving to—the idea of transition. The transition to democracy is a major new field. The tremendous avalanche of information which accompanies the opening up of society will change the approach. More specialization is occurring, as it becomes increasingly impossible for Soviet and Western Sovietologists to cover all fields. This shift in focus will undoubtedly change Soviet studies. Before, the Soviet Union was treated as

very much a society in itself. Now there is a need for the theoretical conversion between Soviet and Western societies.

IB—Your study of Soviet nationalities incorporates the integration of multi-ethnic states, stability, and the rise and collapse of multi-ethnic empires. This would seem to require the idea of transition as well. What difficulties does this create for your own research?

VZ—We are entering into a new wave of national-state formations in the world, stemming from the collapse of the socialist project. Multi-ethnic states of a Soviet-type system are disintegrating. This will lead to the collapse of the Soviet multinational empire.

Multi-ethnic states, which used to operate under unified socialist principles, are becoming increasingly unstable under conditions of market integration. Regional accountability (*khozraschet*) has forced nationalist aspirations towards the surface.

The Soviet Union as a social-political construct can be compared to a union of Norway and Pakistan. The incorporation of the Baltics and Central Asia under the same state apparatus makes this apparent absurdity an actuality. Under conditions of market integration such a system is inherently unstable.

IB—Are there any prospects for a gradual transition to a market economy or must the Soviet Union crumble under this pressure?

VZ—The transition must necessarily be gradual. Economic integration will remain a significant motivational force irrespective of state institutions. The most reasonable idea is to drop the demand of political unity. Fyodor Burlatsky's proposal to sign two union treaties at once—an economic treaty signed by all the union republics out of self interest (granting zones of preferential treatment,

Continued on back page

Slavic Department News

After a Fall Quarter marked by the impressive international conference on Boris Pasternak, a Stanford Centennial event, the Slavic Department is still busy. New faces, new courses, and new honors keep coming in.

The Department is pleased to welcome two new instructors. Professor Priscilla Hunt, who received her Ph.D. from Stanford, has most recently been a Five College Associate, and is a visitor for Winter and Spring Quarters. She is teaching "Russian Literature in Translation: The Novel and Beyond" and a graduate seminar on "The Self in the Medieval Literature of the Eastern Slavs." Seraphima Radivilova is the new instructor for Third Year Russian Conversation and Advanced Russian. She comes to Stanford from the Herzen State Pedagogical Institute in the USSR, where she taught English and chaired the English section of the Department of Second Languages, among other responsibilities. Elena Lifschitz, instructor for Russian, has taken a leave of absence through August 1992, and will be teaching Russian at the University of Texas at Austin.

Three professors in the Department have received National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowships. Professor Joseph Frank received an NEH Senior Fellowship to complete his study of Dostoevsky. Professor Andrew Wachtel's fellowship will enable him to complete his book *An Obsession with History: Russian Writers Confront the Past*. Professor Gregory Freidin is on leave Winter and Spring Quarters to work on two books,

Authorship and Citizenship: Russian Literature and Society in the Stalin Revolution, and a book on the reception of Isaac Babel in Russia and America. *The Federalist Papers*, which Professor Freidin has translated into Russian, annotated, and prefaced has just been published.

In Spring Quarter the Department will continue to offer Polish and will add Serbo-Croatian to the curriculum. Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Polish will be offered. Beginning and Intermediate Serbo-Croatian will be taught by Jasmina Bojic, a visiting scholar in Journalism from Yugoslavia.

The Department's graduate students have been busy as well. Sara Fenander, Sally Kux, and Natasha Sankovitch presented papers at the AATSEEL convention in December. Natasha also had an article on repetition in Tolstoy published in the 1990 *Tolstoy Studies Journal*. Sally was honored as one of the Stanford Centennial TA's, an award for outstanding teaching assistants given by the Dean of Humanities. Julie Cassidy has been selected as a Graduate Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. Katya Hokanson received a Whiting Fellowship and Jehanne Gheith was awarded a Lurcy Fellowship for working on their dissertation. Tom Hodge, who recently returned from four and a half months of gathering material for his dissertation in Moscow on an ACTR fellowship, received a Social Science Council Fellowship. Sam Eisen is spending the academic year in Moscow on an ACTR ten-month fellowship.

Slavic Department Winter Events

A memorial service for Professor Emeritus Edward Brown will be held on Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 pm in Room 200-2 in the History Department at Stanford University. Everyone who knew, worked with, or took courses with Professor Brown, or would simply like to share in his memory, is welcome to attend. Professor Brown's obituary, reprinted from *Campus Report*, is on page 2.

Two upcoming lectures in Winter Quarter are being sponsored by the Slavic Department. CREES is co-sponsoring a lecture on Tuesday, March 5, at 5:00 pm, by Professor Robin Feuer Miller from Brandeis University, on "Unsealing the Generic Envelope: Dostoevsky, Dickens, and 'The Dream of a Ridiculous Man.'"

Professor Svetlana Boym of Harvard University will give a talk on "Kitsch, Glasnost, and Cinema," on Wednesday, March 13, at 5:00 pm. The locations of the lectures will be announced later. For more information on these lectures and other events, please contact the Slavic Department (415) 723-4438.

Calendar of Events

- February 22**
Friday
Noon
Vladislav Zubok, Senior Fellow, Academy of Sciences of the USSR;
Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science; Visiting Fellow, CISAC
"The Turn to the Right and Foreign Policy in Moscow"
Red Room, 200 Encina Hall
- February 25-27**
ANNUAL DONALD M. KENDALL LECTURES ON SOVIET AFFAIRS
"The Revenge of the Past: The Nationalities Problem in the Soviet Union"
Ronald Grigor Suny, Alex Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian History, University of Michigan
"Class, Nationality and Revolution"
Room 205, History Corner
"State Building and Nation Making"
Room 203, History Corner
"Nationalism and the Nation State"
Room 203, History Corner
- Monday**
4:15 pm
Tuesday
4:15 pm
Wednesday
4:15 pm
- March 5**
Tuesday
4:15 pm
Robin Feuer Miller, Associate Professor, Department of Germanic and Slavic, Languages, Brandeis University; Fellow, Russian Research Center, Harvard University
"Unsealing the Generic Envelope: Dostoevsky, Dickens and 'The Dream of a Ridiculous Man'"
Red Room, 200 Encina Hall
(Co-sponsored with the Slavic Department and Comparative Literature Department)
- March 8**
Friday
Noon
David Stark, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Cornell University
"Democratization and Privatization in Eastern Europe"
Red Room, 200 Encina Hall
(Co-sponsored with the Graduate School of Business)
- March 14**
Thursday
4:15 pm
FIRST ANNUAL ANTONINA AND KONSTANTY STYS LECTURE ON POLISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
Piotr S. Wandycz, Bradford Durfee Professor of History, Yale University
"Poland's Return to Europe"
Room 203, History Corner
- March 15**
Friday
Berkeley
9:00 am to
6:00 pm
ANNUAL BERKELEY-STANFORD CONFERENCE
"Beyond Leninism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union"
Round table discussants include faculty from Berkeley and Stanford Universities and other institutions.

- All lectures are free of charge and open to the public.
- Lectures may change without notice.
- For updated information, call (415) 725-2563.

Sociological and Health Care Research in the USSR

Don Barr, a doctoral candidate in Sociology, an M.D., and a Health Research and Policy Fellow at Stanford Medical School, traveled to the Soviet Union last year at the invitation of the Central Laboratory of Social and Economic Measurement (CLSEM) of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He met with Dr. Inna Schneiderman, the Director of Research for the CLSEM, and Professor Aleksei Shevyakov, the Director of the CLSEM, to explore the possibilities of joint Stanford-CLSEM research on sociological and health care issues. Part of the funding for his trip was provided by CREES.

I wanted to understand the types of problems the CLSEM has, the type and source of data they have in their laboratory, and the types of studies they are doing. The State Committee on Statistics (SCS) has established food, housing, and health care as priorities (older people sometimes actually rate health care as more important than food or housing). Much of the CLSEM's data comes from the SCS. Sometimes a state ministry will ask the laboratory to research a question, or sometimes it is a project which they want to research, so they go to the state statistical bureau for data.

Recently, they have found that they must pay to get data from the SCS. The more money is offered, the more cooperation they get. They realize that the data SCS gives them is often faulty. For example, the CLSEM has published a project on the question of alcoholism in the USSR. They received from the SCS the official figure of 4.5 million people with alcoholism in the Soviet Union, but when they started going through the data, they found this figure clearly inaccurate because of misinterpretation of the responses. From information about other drinking habits, they estimate that there are thirty million alcoholics in the Soviet Union, many times the official figure.

The CLSEM plans to extend this same research to drug abuse. It is their expectation that drug abuse is a problem far greater in extent and magnitude than the official figures indicate, and that it is a significant cause of death among young people. They expressed the view that the problem of alcohol and drug abuse is an overall problem of the use of what they called "tranquilizers," or mood-altering substances. Other issues they are studying are the relationship between alcohol abuse and obesity, and regional differences

in patterns of alcohol abuse.

The question of housing is a principal area of research for the laboratory. According to them, living conditions are a major factor leading to the overall condition with alcohol, drug, and other substance abuse. In the Soviet Union, six million people live in dormitories. Of these, half are students, but half are temporary workers who live and work in a city without the papers to live there permanently, and are thus unable to get housing. Each of these six million people is allocated six to six and a half square meters of space per person. Having only two to three people in one room is considered a high class dormitory room. Again, the CSLEM realizes that the information provided by the SCS on the quality of housing is faulty.

I asked who they felt should have the responsibility for gathering these types of data. Should it be the state and the state ministries? Should it be the academic institutes? Should it be the universities? Who would finance this exploration? They replied that clearly the whole field of survey research must be improved, and that this is one of the principal tasks that they want to work on and develop. They also explained more about what the CLSEM laboratory encompasses. Within the laboratory there are several different working groups, with several people in each group. Working groups cover such areas as health care statistics and health care economy, housing conditions, level of education, culture (theaters, museums, cinemas, etc.), population statistics, consumption statistics, income statistics, employment, and moral statistics (a euphemism for religion, an area with only rudimentary data and in need of extensive development).

I asked specifically about their work in health care system data and health care economics and whether anyone else in the state ministries or the Academy of Sciences was doing this type of work. They answered that there is an institute of health within the health ministry which has physicians and economists working on these issues. We discussed possible cooperative effort between US academic institutions and their institute and laboratory, both towards analysis of existing data and also, in those areas where the data is faulty, to develop new field survey research.

Community Events

The Commonwealth Club of California and the Armenian Professional Society of the Bay Area are sponsoring an all-day seminar in San Francisco on Saturday, February 23, entitled "The Soviet Caucasus—Prospects for Its Republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia." Featured experts include Ronald Suny of the University of Michigan, this year's Kendall Lecturer, Victor Zaslavsky, visiting professor in Sociology at Stanford, and John Dunlop of the Hoover Institution. For more information, please contact Suzy Antounian at (415) 921-5044.

Humanities West of San Francisco will present a program, "The Enchantment of Prague 1600-1750" March 15-16, Herbst Theater, San Francisco, moderated by Jan Triska, Professor Emeritus at Stanford. The program opens Friday evening, and continues all day Saturday. Baroque music by the Bohemian composer Jan Lelinka will also be performed. For more information, please contact Humanities West, (415) 387-8780.

Montage Journal Published

After nearly a year of delays due to fundraising difficulties, the premiere issue of *Montage* was published on January 24. As it says in the foreword, *Montage* is a Soviet-American student journal of social commentary and creative writing devoted to educating "Soviet and American students about their counterparts and to encourage the development of the free and alternative press in the US and USSR....It is intended for *all* students," not just those interested in Soviet or American studies.

The theme for the 128-page Winter 1991 issue is "The Origins of Identity." Prose, poetry, and art contributions from students in both countries are presented in their original language and are accompanied by a complete translation. A "Glossary of Bicultural Literacy" is provided to clarify potentially difficult concepts and references for students in each country, such as Spike Lee and *propiski*.

The second issue is projected for Spring 1991, with a May or June publication date, depending on the success of fundraising efforts. Its theme will be "Students and Change." Submissions of creative writing, art, and reporting will be solicited soon, and translators will be needed in a few months. For more information, call Susan McKean or Eric Jones at (415) 723-5967.

Copies of the Winter issue of *Montage* are available for \$4 at the Stanford Bookstore, Kepler's Books in Palo Alto, Cody's Books in Berkeley, and at the CREES office. Subscriptions are available at \$10 for students and \$20 for non-students by writing to *Montage*, P.O. Box 9476, Stanford, CA 94309. Please make checks payable to "*Montage* c/o Stanford University."

In a fortuitous coincidence, the main Moscow editorial staff of *Montage* arrived at Stanford just in time for the first issue's publication. Andrei Voskresenskii, the Moscow editor-in-chief and a teacher at Moscow State University, Dimitri Markov, the business manager and a student at Moscow State University, and Mikhail Khalto, a representative from Novosti Press in Moscow, spent two weeks at Stanford learning about the American side of the publishing process.

After overcoming problems of communication between Moscow and Stanford, circumventing one instance of censorship by a worker at Novosti Press, and coping with long delays and long hours of work, the editors of *Montage* are justifiably proud of their publication. Translation editor Heidi Hillis, a CREES MA student, said, "It's been so long and it's really nice just to hold it in our hands."

CREES Publication Order Form

Soviet Nationalities Problems. Edited by Ian A. Bremmer and Norman Naimark. 1990.

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Soviet Nationalities Problems* at \$8.50 each plus \$0.90 shipping and handling (California residents add \$0.60 tax for total of \$10.00 each).

Soviet Scholarship Under Gorbachev. Edited by Alexander Dallin and Bertrand M. Patenaude. 1988.

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Soviet Scholarship Under Gorbachev* at \$6.50 each plus \$0.65 shipping and handling (California residents add \$0.45 tax for total of \$7.50 each).

Slavic and East European Collections at the Stanford University Libraries. Wojciech Zalewski. 1987.

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Slavic and East European Collections* at \$2.00 plus \$0.36 shipping and handling (California residents add \$0.14 tax for total of \$2.50 each).

Total enclosed: _____

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Please make checks payable to CREES. Prices subject to change.

Slavianskii Dom Update

Under Resident Fellow Jehanne Gheith's wise direction, this year's Slavianskii dom, the Soviet and East European Theme House, has managed to diversify its activities to a wider range than ever before. Two house seminars are being offered Winter quarter: a two-unit Overseas Studies course on Poland led by Professor Waldemar Martiniuk from Poland on Monday and Thursday evenings, and a one-unit CREES-sponsored course on "Women and Minorities in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union," which features a different speaker each Tuesday afternoon. For Spring quarter the Dom will offer Tom Hodge's popular "Introduction to Russian Music," and a course on Polish theater taught by Emil Orzechowski.

Each Dom resident must participate in one of five theme projects, run by the theme associates. **TREEE** (Total Revitalization of the Eastern European Environment) has already begun to receive responses from environmental groups and government departments, both in the US and in East Central Europe regarding environmental developments there. **Revolyutsia** is

sponsoring a film series this quarter, featuring *Lolita*, *The Trial*, and *The Revolt of Job*, as well as an outing to Havel's *Temptation* in San Francisco on February 24. **Current Events** keeps everyone informed of the latest developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union through technologically superior information media, including bathroom stalls. **Vesyeloe Vremya** is arranging a Café Night later in the quarter and has ushered Russian folk music into the house. **Culture by Consumption** will continue to provide ethnic foods for many in-house events.

Having overcome the initial difficulties of launching its student-run kitchen, Slavianskii Dom invites students to join the popular Russian language tables (Thursdays for beginners and Mondays for advanced speakers), as well as Thursday evening Polish tables. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm. Please contact Jehanne (497-5262) or Gogi (497-2933) regarding the cost of the language tables.

Radu Costin, Slavianskii dom Theme Associate

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Affiliation

Areas of Interest: USSR Language and Literature History Economics
 Eastern Europe Political Science Sociology International Relations
 Other _____

Interview with Victor Zaslavsky, continued

Continued from page 2

autonomy over natural resources) and a separate political treaty—follows this logic. Some republics will desire political union, many others will not.

Four republics at present certainly do not want a political union: the three Baltic republics and Georgia. The status of the Ukraine and Moldavia are unclear. But regardless of their demands the USSR will become a federation or confederation and a few nation-states unified in some Soviet economic commonwealth.

IB-Can you envision this occurring under Gorbachev's reforms?

VZ-Gorbachev's problem is that there is an inherent contradiction in his reforms. He wants a transition to a market economy while maintaining the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union. You simply cannot have marketization with territorial integrity in the Soviet empire.

IB-Is marketization therefore impossible under a unified Soviet state?

VZ-It is not impossible but it would take a very long time. Different peoples have different preparations for marketization reform. The bulk of the Baltic populations

embraces the market economy and entrepreneurship, while in the Central Asian and Russian republics an overwhelming majority rejects it.

In a variant of industrial society, the Soviet Union has developed its own type of worker—the state-dependent worker, where vast numbers of people are dependent on state employment, especially given the tremendous importance of the Soviet military-industrial complex. This is a major obstacle on the way to marketization of the Soviet economy.

IB-The resurgence of nationalism has flared emotions both within and without the Soviet Union. Can such a movement be anything but destructive?

VZ-No doubt about it, nationalism can be very destructive. It can be the product of tremendous frustration, such as the old-style nationalism of Central Asia. When no positive program is available, nationalism takes the form of destroying your neighbor. Baltic nationalism, however, does not take this form. Nationalism should be seen not only as a desire for the organization of independent nation-states but also as a liberal force which creates the preconditions for joining the world economy.

Campus Events

CREES and the Stanford Alumni Association Travel/Study Programs are sponsoring a round-table discussion on "Eastern Europe in Crisis: A Year Later" on Saturday, February 23, at 3:00 pm, in Terman Auditorium at Stanford. Participants include Dorothy Atkinson, Thomas Emmert, Norman Naimark, Karl Roider, Kurt Steiner, and Jan Triska, with Wayne Vucinich as moderator. Admission is free. Please contact the CREES office for more information (415) 725-2563.

Recent posters and documents from the Hoover Institution's collection on democracy in Eastern Europe 1989-1991 are on exhibit at the Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibit Pavilion near Hoover Tower. Called "The New Eastern Europe," the exhibit is open Monday-Friday, 11 am to 4 pm, through April 10. Admission is free.

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