The Post-Soviet Gender Gap, or Communism as a Poverty Disease
by Elena Gapova

In the former Soviet Union, people voted unanimously, and how one voted did not matter much. When voting did start to matter, it turned out that men and women voted quite differently. In the country of supposed gender equality no one expected a gender gap. Why can’t women be more like men, politicians sighed, much in the same way as Bernard Shaw’s Professor Higgins.

In this brief piece, I will attempt to provide some rationale for the postcommunist voting gap, using Belarus as a “case study.” The Belarusian situation serves as an excellent sample, for probably nowhere else in the former SU does the government preach (and realize!) a socialist comeback in such a straightforward way. At the same time, one of the bewildering features of the Belarusian case is the steady support President Alexandar Lukashenka gets from the people (manipulations with numbers by those “who count the votes” cannot explain all of it). His victory in 1994 became a shock for anticommunist intellectuals, nationalist-Westernizers and foreign experts. He built his election campaign on the anti-corruption rhetoric and promised that in the first week of his presidency he would put everyone guilty of corruption in jail, restart state enterprises, fix prices (or, rather, return them to what they had been during the Soviet era), restart paying all kinds of social subsidies and take care of veterans. Intelligentsia never bothered to fight that rhetoric—so absolutely naive, primitively socialist and unprofessional it seemed—and instead preached liberal and market values. Lukashenka won the election by a landslide. The opponents of the regime sometimes maintain that Lukashenka “was elected by women” and that they remain his most ardent fan group. According to the polls, 50.2% of women support the president versus only 39.8% of men. Here I will try to explain the political choices that women make.

In 1997, the Independent Institute for Social, Economic and Political Research in Minsk tried to find out who the president’s supporters were, asking people one crucial question: “Would you vote for Lukashenka tomorrow?” The two groups formed by answering “yes” or “no” were put under scrutiny with more questions about their financial situation, political and civic values, and economic priorities. The poll revealed that twice as many housewives (46.1%) as businessmen/entrepreneurs (21.6%) were ready to vote for Lukashenka. Moreover, the president’s supporters are mostly poor people, hardly making ends meet (which implies that they, if working, are employed in the state sector). They prefer state-controlled economy to market reforms; the choice they make in this issue logically yields: low but guaranteed incomes; deficiency of goods; fixed prices and queues which were part of their former experience; the state’s provision of social services (both the quality and the price of which are usually low). They condemn private property and any kind of economic activity not inspired by the state for they take themselves as passive objects of economic relations. In general, they embody classical anti-market stereotypes (see table on page 2).

Is there any gender in this poll? Yes, beyond any doubt, for the categories of “poor” and “women” overlap: in a transitional economy (as well as in socialist, capitalist and any other), women are much more likely than men to be poor. Radical deterioration of the economic status after 1991 affected women to a greater extent than men. For example, in 1996 lowest incomes for males oscillated between 105 and 390 thousand Belarusian rubles with the highest between 900 and 13,578; for women between 50 and 345 and 750 and 5,000 respectively. Women made up 81.4% of the unemployed in 1992 and 63.8% in 1996. For women the post-1991 era did not become an entry into the brave new world of opportunities. When new economic and political options appeared, it soon became clear to women, many of whom are “historically” concentrated in the lower priority sectors of the economy or in lower posts and are dependent on the state-guaranteed social security, that for them new “liberal” choices did not exist. They did not translate into upward mobility (in fact the trend was quite the reverse), while the old socialist structure where they had had certain positions of power and resources were gone. The new institutional context emphasized the enterprise of agents free of any housework or childcare responsibilities, while the liberal contents of independence, its attributes and abilities were defined in male terms meaningless for women as mothers and caretakers.

Social analysis reveals a profound difference between Belarusian women’s and men’s attitude to the role of the state. As —continued on page 2, see Gender Gap
Gender Gap—continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic priorities</th>
<th>Would you vote for Lukashenka tomorrow?</th>
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<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>Type of economy preferred:</td>
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<tr>
<td>state controlled economy</td>
<td>66.6</td>
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<td>market economy</td>
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<td>Type of income preferred:</td>
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<td>low but guaranteed</td>
<td>54.8</td>
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<td>high but not guaranteed</td>
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<td>Goods supply preferred:</td>
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<td>deficiency, little choice and fixed</td>
<td>68.3</td>
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<td>prices</td>
<td>39.7</td>
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<td>Social service preferred:</td>
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<td>low quality and little choice but</td>
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<td>free freedom of choice for the money</td>
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<td>you pay</td>
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<td>Most efficient type of ownership</td>
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<td>state</td>
<td>63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>private</td>
<td>26.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can land be private property</td>
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<td>no</td>
<td>67.3</td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>37.9</td>
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<td>The price of goods should be</td>
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<tr>
<td>nominated by the state</td>
<td>59.2</td>
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<td>depend on demand and supply</td>
<td>22.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Should the state limit a citizen’s</td>
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<td>income?</td>
<td>54.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>41.4</td>
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</table>

that Belarusian women vote for communism. Their choice is the reflection and outcome of the citizenship model that is male-biased. If, historically, the basic criterion for citizenship was the “independent agent,” then women were seen as dependents, burdened with family welfare. Under socialism, the state promised to take away, or at least share, some of the burdens. The equality that was constituted by paid employment in conjunction with state protection for all workers and its combination with the “protective” constraint of women’s choices on behalf of patriarchy yielded special, both institutional and cultural, construction of female citizenship.

main recipients of welfare, workers of welfare institutions or persons responsible for the welfare of the family, women, to a much greater degree than men, believe that the state should take care of their well-being and hold it responsible for the recent deterioration of their status. Under socialism, family allowances and benefits for employees were taken for granted and considered not privileges but entitlements stemming from employment. Unlike his liberal opponents preaching abstract ideals of democracy and rights (which women often see as having no tangible value), Lukashenka has made “family issues” a stable part of his rhetoric and policy. He appeals to women’s anxieties and fears, makes proposals on childcare and maternity allowances, and visits schools and kindergartens.

A prominent Russian economist Grigory Yavlinsky said in 1997, “Communism is a disease. Like a louse, it breeds on poverty...” One can hardly think of a better way to describe how the social costs of the postcommunist transformation can outweigh the very goals of democracy and prosperity. These social costs probably catalyze the return of authoritarianism and communist ideal (if only there is a stronger idea, e.g. the nationalist one, which may help to defeat “socialism”). It is no wonder

However, the different incorporation of men and women into active agency and opportunity under socialism also created the current voting gap, which threatens the fate of democracy in Belarus. Women both supported and constrained by the state patriarchy and facing the deterioration of their status vote for the return of the socialist well-being.

But constrained by gender divisions, do Belarusian women try to renegotiate their position? There is one figure in the poll, which is in striking contrast to the main trend of women “supporting communism.” People with university degrees mostly oppose communist ideology and support market values, freedom of the press and freedom of choice. This gives me hope, for in Belarus more women (17.4% of all women) than men (14.3% of all men) have university degrees! The crucial factor in voting behavior is not gender; it is the “economic status” of gender, both female and male. Communism is not a female disease; it is a disease of poverty. If only women could be more like men. If only they did not tend to be poor...◆

Dr. Elena Gapova is the Director of the Center for Gender Studies at the European Humanities University in Minsk, Belarus. She is currently a visiting faculty at REEC this semester.

New directions in Russian and East European Studies:


Soyuz, a research network for socialist and post-socialist cultures, was formed in 1993. Amidst a disparate but rapidly growing community of over a hundred scholars, the goal of Soyuz is to bring together potential colleagues and distribute a quick reference guide to works-in-progress. Soyuz organizes a two-day symposium every spring.

This year the symposium focused on the transnational context of post-socialist societies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Among the topics discussed were symbols of nationalism, memory, ethnic identity, immigration, mobility, popular culture, civil society, corporate culture, issues of gender, and cultural borrowings from Western contexts. Presenters came from all over the world. Those from the former Soviet Union (Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan) and Eastern Europe were mostly past their doctorates, in some case accomplished scholars in their countries, while the majority of presenters from the West (US, UK, Germany, Scandinavian countries) tended to be graduate students. UI was represented by Diana Mineyts, a graduate student in Sociology and the present author.

One of the most striking aspects of the symposium was the differences in theory and method between the “Western” and “non-Western” papers. Authors from the “West” tended to rely on ethnography and applied a broad cultural studies perspective to their subjects. “Non-Western” scholars, with some notable exceptions, placed greater emphasis on quantitative data, and their papers tended to fall under the category of critical policy analysis (on issues such as the informal economy, environmental management, women’s economic situation). While there did not seem to be a problem of mutual understanding, our conversations would have cut deeper had the discussants made more effort to bridge this apparent gap. This tension, however, also brought about an interesting dynamic rendering the symposium even more vibrant.

Moreover, the symposium highlighted topics that had traditionally been marginal or absent from Russian and East European Studies, such as the body, popular culture, the environment, and local cultural attitudes to post-socialism and globalization. The application of contemporary Western theories to these and other issues provided fresh perspectives on familiar social problems, such as unemployment, poverty, the crisis of the health care system, and gender inequality. A persistent
Lupu Receives a Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Sherban Lupu in the School of Music has received a lifetime achievement award from the Romanian Cultural Foundation for his efforts to promote Romanian culture and music internationally.

Professor Lupu traveled to his native Bucharest in January to accept the Gala Award, presented at the foundation’s annual awards festivities. The foundation awards the honor to “personalities of the international cultural and scientific life who have been involved in promoting Romanian culture abroad.” A violinist, Lupu also was invited to present a recital during the nationally televised awards ceremony, which was attended by Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

Among his most recent professional activities, Lupu—in collaboration with composer Cornel Taranu—completed and reconstructed the “Caprice Roumain” for violin and orchestra by the late Romanian composer George Enescu. The composition was included on a CD recently released in Europe on the Elect record label featuring Enescu’s complete works for violin. Lupu joined on the recording by Valentin Gheorghe and the Bucharest Filarmonica Orchestra, under the direction of Cristian Mandeal. The recording recently was ranked among the best classical CDs of 2000 by The Independent, a newspaper published in London.

Among the post-communist transition in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, provided a comparative look at democratic transition in the two regions. Closing out the Colloquium series for the year is Slavist John Bowlt of USC, who will give a very interesting talk on fakes of 20th century Russian art. Other notable talks have been presented by Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous, who discussed the role of human rights in foreign policy, and historian Taras Hunczak of Rutgers, who delivered the Ukrainian Research Program Lecture on the topic of Ukraine in World War II.

In March the Center organized an innovative outreach program featuring three scholars from the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Irina Kureeva, Natalia Krollau and Leah Livshits. During their ten-day stay, they conducted a series of public lectures as well as an Elderhostel, teachers’ workshops and presentations at local schools on the history of the Hermitage Museum and its collections. Lynda Park and Alexander Zhivov of Agricultural Engineering, who provided the initiative for this project, worked intensely for months with the outreach office of the International Programs and Studies, the Office of Continuing Education, and the Spurlock Museum to put this unique program together. The spring semester has also been enlivened by a performance of a Russian play, a dramatic reading by Ukrainian poet and author Yuri Andrukhovych and concerts by Balkanalia, among others. We look forward, as well, to another stimulating Summer Research Lab. Check the programming announcement in this newsletter for information, and we hope to see you there.

I am surprised at how quickly my year as Acting Director has passed. My heartfelt thanks to the entire REEC staff—Dianne Merridith, Lynda Park, Vicki Retzolk, and Sandy Reasor—and to Mark Steinberg himself, who wasn’t really on leave whenever it mattered.

A graduate of the Bucharest Conservatory, London’s Guildhall School of Music and Indiana University, Lupu joined the faculty at UI in 1987.

Throughout his career as a performer and teacher, he has devoted himself to the dissemination of music by Enescu and other Romanian composers. He is considered the world’s leading interpreter of Enescu’s music.

Lupu has worked with several Romanian composers, who have dedicated works to him, including Gheorghe Costinescu, Violeta Dinescu, Dinu Ghezzo and Theodor Grigoriu. Last October, in collaboration with the Russian and East European Center, Lupu organized a campus festival and symposium dedicated to the music of Enescu.

A versatile soloist and chamber musician, Lupu is a member of the George Enescu Chamber Players, Chicago Ensemble and founder of the UI’s Enescu Ensemble. His solo appearances have included recitals at major concert halls throughout Europe and the United States, including at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Lupu appeared there in 1998, in a concert he organized in honor of Emil Constantinescu, who then was the president of Romania.

Courtesy of Melissa Mitchell, UI News Bureau
Zsuzsa Gille, an Assistant Professor in Sociology since 1999, is concerned with the “social origins of knowledge.” A Hungarian native, Gille grew up in Budapest and earned her undergraduate degree in Sociology and Economics from the Karl Marx University of Economics (now Budapest University of Economics). She moved to the United States to pursue her advanced studies, earning a PhD in Sociology from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Gille’s areas of specialization, which, she says, are “at the intersections” of various fields or subdisciplines of sociology, are environmental sociology, globalization and Europeanization, cultural studies, and the sociology of knowledge, with a particular emphasis on the realities of postsocialist Europe. Her dissertation, “Wastelands in Transition: The Three Regimes of Hungary: 1948-1998,” addresses the changes in the concept of waste in Hungary. While the dissertation is based mainly on archival research, she does a case study of a toxic waste site to discuss specific environmental effects that the site had on its surroundings. Gille also notes that in contrast to the conventional belief that communist systems were wasteful, communist Hungary had an elaborate and effective system of recycling, which in the aftermath of 1989 has been dismantled because it was seen as an intervention of the state. She conducted her dissertation research on grants from the ACLS, SSRC, IREX, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Currently, Gille is interested in the issue of globalization. She is teaching a course this semester on “Globalization from Below” and leads a study group of Sociology graduate students and faculty to study the issue of globalization and transnational social relations. She has a number of publications on this topic. She co-authored Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections and Imaginations in a Postmodern World (University of California Press, 2000), which is already in its second printing. She also has two journal articles, “Ethnography after Locality” in Ethnography and “Critical Ethnography in the Time of Globalization: Towards a New Concept of Site” in Cultural Studies, Critical Methodologies, forthcoming in the next few months.

Gille’s next project will be to return to Budapest this summer to study the emergence of what she calls the “EU intelligentsia” in Hungary, the group of specialists who make decisions on how to bring Hungary into alignment with European Union regulations and models. She is particularly interested in looking at how certain models are labeled as “backward” and “Eastern” whereas others are seen as more progressive and in line with the Western European model. Continuing her interest in environmental issues, she also plans to examine how environmental problems are used as “bargaining chips” in these negotiations.

REEC Announces the Yaro Skalnik Prize

The Russian and East European Center announces this year’s winners of the Yaro Skalnik Prize for Best Undergraduate and Graduate Essays in Russian and East European Studies. The undergraduate winner is sophomore Brian Peters (animal sciences major) for his paper “Vladimir Putin: Enigma of the Second Millennium.” The graduate winner is Susan Smith, a PhD candidate in history, for her paper, “Peasants in a Romanian Landscape: Gender, Space and Nation in Liviu Rebreanu’s Ion.”

The Skalnik Prize is a new award launched with funds from friends and family of Yaro J. Skalnik (1918-1995). It is designed to reward excellence in student achievement in Russian, Eurasian and East European studies and to encourage interest in the region. The prize itself is not named after a scholar, but is intended to honor a generation of Russian and East European immigrant families who were born and grew up here in suspension between their parents’ “old countries” and their own hyphenated American identities, the children of the last big wave of early twentieth-century migration. Some of you will have noticed that Yaro is rather an odd Slavic name—Jaromir or Jaroslav, surely, but not just Yaro! That oddy shortened name in fact encapsulates a generation in transition between two cultures. Searching for a snappy American-sounding name for their son, Vaclav and Maria Skalnik—new parents in the New World—dismissed the foreign-sounding Jaromir, and came up with Yaro. Their son was of the generation who grew up and went to school in the Depression, attended college as a street car commuter in Cleveland and Chicago and other cities of the Slavic belt (and were usually the first college graduate in their family’s history), who were offered some good jobs on graduation (sometimes on condition of changing their foreign names), who served in World War II and raised their children in greater security and comfort than they themselves experienced. Yaro Skalnik himself was a Cleveland, graduate of Western Reserve University, with an MA in Political Science from George Washington University, who served in Army Intelligence during World War II and remained at the Pentagon afterwards as a civilian intelligence official. His wife Alice Skalnik (herself an army intelligence officer) and children have established the prize. The Center gratefully acknowledges the following generous donors to the fund: Paul and Shirley Arey, Alice Veazie Skalnik, Judy Mann and David Konig, Deborah Lef, Wilma and Carey Swan, Ralph and Ruth Fisher, Marcia Skalnik, James Skalnik, Vernon and Georganne Burton, Carol and Mark Lef.

If you would like to contribute to this student prize fund, please make your check to: UIF-REEC Fund. On the memo line of the check, write “Skalnik Prize.” It is tax deductible. Send to the Russian and East European Center, University of Illinois, International Studies Building 104, 901 S. Fifth Street, Champaign IL 61820.

Contributions to UIF-REEC fund that are not earmarked for this prize are also tax-deductible, and will be used to enhance programming at the center, support graduate students, and improve outreach. If there is a particular purpose that you would like to see the Center pursue with donations, please let us know. Many of you have been donors to the Summer Research Lab and the Ukrainian Research Program in particular over the years, but there may be other directions you would like to see the Center take.
From the Field: Odessa, Ukraine
by Marjorie Hilton

Living in Odessa, a city of approximately one million on the Black Sea in southern Ukraine, offered many surprises, hardships, and rewards. Supported by a U.S. Information Agency Regional Scholar Exchange Award and a fellowship from the University of Illinois, I spent the fall of 1999 conducting research for my dissertation on commercial culture in Odessa and Moscow in the late imperial and early soviet periods. During that time, I came not only to understand the great difficulties of living and working in one of the former Soviet republics, but to appreciate the ways in which those difficulties can be mitigated by friends and colleagues. I also discovered that life in one of the smaller cities of the former Soviet Union offered opportunities not as easily gained in larger cities.

Life in Odessa, in general, is more relaxed compared to Moscow or St. Petersburg. Getting about the city is easy. The pace of life is slower. Most items can be easily bought, either at markets, reminiscent of open-air markets of the past where vendors sell everything from live crawfish to spices to Korean specialties, or at Western- or Russian-style shops and stores. Yet, in other ways everyday life in Odessa can be rather difficult.

Odessa’s economy, like that of many other cities in the former Soviet Union is faltering. Many people take on extra work to make ends meet. Funding for public services, such as water, heating, and repair and renovations of buildings is inadequate. On my first day in the city I discovered, much to my surprise, that the water is turned off daily between about 10:00 am and 4:00 or 5:00 pm. As winter approached, some days I arrived home to find that the electricity, too, had been cut off for a few hours. Thus, living in Odessa sometimes felt more like camping in Odessa.

Conducting research, too, was often fraught with obstacles. Besides the regular delays in accessing materials and the unannounced closings of archives and libraries that researchers have come to expect in the former Soviet Union, I faced mechanical failures in the university library that made working with some materials impossible. One such problem brought my reading of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth Odessa newspapers, a significant source for my project, to a halt for approximately six weeks.

While such rigors of life demanded untold amounts of patience, a sense of humor, and resourcefulness (the first of which I possess not at all), I found that personal connections and friendships helped to alleviate many of the worst problems. A circle of colleagues from Odessa State University welcomed me from the beginning of my stay, opening their homes to me and sharing their knowledge of and love for Odessa. In particular, Lena Igina, an instructor at the university, became my best friend, personal expert on all matters Ukrainian, and standing Friday night “date” to the symphony. Although not a historian but a linguist by training, Lena became as fascinated by my project as I. We frequently talked about my progress and educated each other about the city. She was stunned, but flattered, that I not only knew a good deal of the city’s history, but possessed a store of obscure facts about old markets, shops, and stores that once stood in Odessa’s center. For my part, I learned an immeasurable amount from her about famous past residents, architecture, landmarks, and local lore. She also accompanied me on my excursions through the city’s streets in search of old commercial landmarks that often were long ago transformed from stately palaces of commerce to small shops and offices. Through Lena, I also became acquainted with historians at Odessa State University, who consulted with me on my topic and provided further suggestions for my research.

My colleagues at the university also introduced me to many of their students, with whom I met several times for informal cross-cultural conversations. Young, bright, articulate, and engaged, these students invited me to their homes and shared with me their opinions and ideas, and, in turn, asked questions about my life in the U.S. and my perceptions of Ukraine. Over pel’meni (Russian dumplings) served in my honor to celebrate Thanksgiving, they talked of politics (they’re not interested), feminism, the Soviet Union and the holiday of the October Revolution, Ukraine’s future, the United States, university life, religion, music, dating, movies, fashion, and much, much more. Through our conversations, I came to know more of contemporary Odessa, a side that, without my colleagues at the university, I would have experienced on a much more superficial level.

This community of friends, colleagues, and students made my stay to Odessa an immensely rewarding experience. Besides the fascinating materials that I found in the archives and libraries for my dissertation, I discovered a wealth of knowledge in this community, which made my trip to Odessa more than a research trip.

Marjorie Hilton is a PhD candidate in History.

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New directions—continued

Theme that ran through the most varied papers was the mismatch of “Western” and “Eastern” organizational cultures and the problematic nature of Western aid and the imposition/adoption of Western political concepts and economic models. While this was not an explicit focus, scholars also found it necessary to acknowledge the effect of the European Union and its imminent “Eastern Enlargement” on various issues, including ethnic identity, environmental politics and minority rights. This is clearly a new trend, and one that we “area scholars” will have to learn to address in our work.

Zsuzsa Gille (Sociology)
To find out more about Soyuz, visit www.csuchico.edu/anth/soyuz.
Faculty News

Alexander Ardichvili presented “Work-related Values of Managers and Subordinates in Manufacturing Companies in Germany, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, and the U.S.” at the annual conference of the Academy of Human Resource Development in March 2001.

Dmitry Bobyshev published poems in “Encounters” # 24, Philadelphia, 2000 and on the internet, most recently at http://aptechka.agawa.ru/bobyshevX.html. He was a chair and participant in a poetry panel at the annual AATSEEL meeting in December 2000.


Diane Koenker presented “Comments on Marshall L. Goldman, ‘The Russian Oligarchs: Not Your Typical Robber Barons,’” in Liberalization and Its Consequences: A Comparative Perspective on Latin America and Eastern Europe, ed. Werner Baer and Joseph L. Love (Cheltanham, 2000). She was awarded William and Flora Hewlett International Research Award from International Programs and Studies for 2001. She also was appointed to the International Advisory Board for St. Petersburg and Nizhnii Novgorod public exhibitions, which were held in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhnii Novgorod in November.


John McKay published Foreign Entrepreneurship in the Late Tsarist Economy” in A Promising Future: German Economic Relations with Russia and the Soviet Union (2000). This collection also serves as a catalogue for related public exhibitions, which were held in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhnii Novgorod winter/spring 2001 and will be in Leipzig, Berlin and Bonn later this year.

In February, Peter Maggs lectured on use of computers in legal research to a group of judges from Tajikistan and participated as an adviser at a meeting in Bremen, Germany, with the committee drafting a new civil code for Tajikistan. He has also been selected to hold the Fullbright Distinguished Chair in Comparative Law at the University of Trento, Italy, for spring 2002.


Marek Sroka presented “Fee-Based Information From Russia Via the Internet” at the AAASS convention in November.


The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies Award, to Professor Keith Hitchins in its annual convention in Denver, CO, in November 2000. Professor Hitchins has been teaching East European history at UI since 1969. He is also the editor of the Journal of Kurdistan Studies and author of several publications in the field of Romanian and Balkan history, including The Idea of Nation: The Romanians of Transylvania 1691-1849 (Bucharest, 1988), Romania, 1866-1947 (Oxford, 1994), and The Romanians, 1774-1866 (Oxford, 1996). He received honorary degrees from the Universities of Cluj and Sibiu in Romania, and in 1991 he was an honorary member of the Rumanian Academy of Sciences. Professor Hitchins received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1964.

Professor Emeritus Temira Pachmuss has been awarded the Medal of the White Star by the Estonian Government in February 2001. She was also listed in the Estonian Encyclopedia (Tallinn 2000). Her long and distinguished career is highlighted by her work on Zinaida Hippius and D. S. Merezhkovsky. Amongst her numerous publications are books, F. M. Dostoevsky: Dualism and Synthesis of the human Soul (1963), Zinaida Hippius: An Intellectual Profile (1971), Russian Literature in the Baltic Between the World Wars (1988), D. S. Merezhkovsky in Exile: The Master of the Genre of Biographie Romancée (1990), and A Moving River of Tears: Russia’s Experience in Finland (1992). Professor Pachmuss taught Russian language and literature in the Slavic Department at UI from 1960 to 1997. She received her PhD from the University of Washington in 1959.

Student News

Jaime L. Coakley (agricultural & consumer economics) received the European Union Center Research Grant for summer 2000 and Mary E Mohler International Study Grant for fall 2000. Both grants were used to conduct research on agricultural land reform in Hungary.

Fiorin Fensic (political science) presented “Historical Legacies and Their Electoral Consequences: Romania and Ukraine” at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities in New York City in April 2001.


Maxim Koupovych (sociology) presented “Rysaard Kapuscinski’s ‘Imperium’: A Postcolonial Reading” at the Midwest Sociological Society’s Annual Meeting in St. Louis in April 2001.


Sarah Phillips (anthropology) published “NGOs in Ukraine: The Makiings of a Women’s Space?” Anthropology of East Europe Review (Autumn 2000). She was also awarded the Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Grant in Women’s Studies.

Beth Admiraal Reitsma (politic science) presented “Religious Policy in Post-Communist Russia” at the AAASS convention in November 2000.


Susan Smith (history) has received a William Widener Teaching Fellowship from the History Department to design and teach a class entitled “Russian Utopias from Peter the Great to Lenin” in fall 2001.

Visiting Scholars Spring 2001

Elena Gapova (Belarus) is a visiting faculty at REEC, teaching SOC 396/W S 396.

Jahor Novikau (Belarus) is a Mortenson Center Associate.

Laurentiu Radvan (Romania) is conducting research at UI with a grant from the Open Society Institute. He is working with Keith Hitchins.

Alumni News

Tom Trice (PhD’99, history) published “Rites of Protest: Populist Funerals in Imperial St. Petersburg, 1876-1878," Slavic Review (spring 2001). He is an assistant professor at Glenville State College.


Distinguished Lecturers Colloquium Series

“Directions in Russian and East European Studies”

Spring 2001

February 20
“Pastors and Prognosticators: the New Class and the Breakup of Czechoslovakia”
Gil Eyal (Sociology, University of California-Berkeley)

March 2
“National Narratives in the Representation of Russian Monarchy”
Richard Wortman (History, Columbia University)

March 29
“The Place of Place in Democratic Transitions”
Valerie Bunce (Political Science, Cornell University)

April 19
“Faking It: The Russian Avant-Garde as a Posthumous Masterpiece”
John Bowlt (Slavic, University of Southern California)

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Spring Semester 2001

January 24
“Belarus: Between East and West, and Dreaming of Its Women”
Elena Gapova (Center for Gender Studies, European Humanities University, Belarus; Visiting Faculty in REEC, UI)

February 7
“Shi’a Islam and State Building: the Tragic Origins of Azerbaijani National Memory”
Michael Smith (History, Purdue University)

February 21
“Ever Higher’: The Evolution of the Project for the Palace of Soviets”
Sona Hoisington (Slavic, UI-Chicago)

March 7
“Making Cabbage Healthy: Conceptions of Health and Diet in Early Nineteenth-Century Russia”
Alison Smith (History, UI)

March 28
“Slovenia’s Democratic Transition: A Success Story?”
Charles Bukowski (International Relations, Bradley University)

April 11
“Marketing Democracy: Changing Opinion about Inequality and Politics in East Central Europe”
James Kluegel (Sociology, UI)

April 25
“Code-Mixing in Serbian Communities in the United States”
Marija Marković (Linguistics, UI)

Send Us Your News!

We would love to hear from you. Please complete this form and return it to: Editor, Center News, Russian and East European Center, 104 International Studies Building, University of Illinois, 910 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820, USA.

Name

Address

Degree(s) earned, discipline and year

Your news:

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Summer Research Laboratory on Russia and Eastern Europe
June 11-August 3
Established in 1973, the Summer Lab provides an opportunity for scholars to utilize the resources of the University Library, which holds the largest Slavic collection west of Washington, DC, and seek advice from the reference librarians of the Slavic and East European Library.

Annual Summer Symposium on “Reassessing Post-Communist Presidencies in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union”
June 23
The symposium will feature leading scholars in the field to discuss the presidencies Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Central Asia.

Research Workshop
June 18-29
The Workshop will include sessions on bibliography, archives, grant writing, and Russian language practicum.

Annual Ukrainian Conference: “Ten Years of Independence of Ukraine,” June 18-23

Discussion Groups and Workshops
Early Russian History, June 11-15
Hungarian Studies Workshop, June 18-22
Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies, June 18-29
Women in Slavic Culture and Literature, June 18-29
Tenth Annual Slavic Librarians’ Workshop, June 27-29

Brown Bag Lecture Series
June 12-July 3
Every Tuesday at 12p.m.

Film Series
June 11-July 26
Every Monday and Thursday evening at 7:30p.m.

Summer Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia and the Balkans, June 25-29
The Center invites secondary and post-secondary instructors to take part in this five-day workshop to develop a more effective and interactive curriculum in Russian and Balkan studies. The workshop will include the following and more:
- Sessions on Russian history, culture, and politics;
- Sessions on Balkan history and the current conflicts the region;
- Sessions on curricular resources and lesson plans.

For an application to the Summer Lab or the Curriculum Development Workshop, please contact the Center at (217) 333-1244 or reec@uiuc.edu. Information and applications are also available on the web: http://www.reec.uiuc.edu/