

# Women East-West

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AWSS!


*2008 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. The AWSS board and WEW have various plans afoot to celebrate the occasion, including increased travel grants for foreign scholars to attend this year's AAASS conference (see below) and a special WEW bibliography devoted to the achievements of our current members.*

*As WEW editor, I encourage you to submit ideas and articles to help us mark this milestone in the life of our organization. The anniversary year also gives extra meaning for our annual prize awards (see pp. 2-3). The AWSS Board encourages your submissions and nominations, with an especial eye to the Outstanding Achievement and Mary Zirin prizes.*

*—Nicole Monnier, WEW editor*

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 **Remember to renew your AWSS membership for 2008!**  
*Mail-in renewal forms are now available in every issue of WEW.*

## APPEAL: AWSS TRAVEL GRANTS

As you probably know by now, this year is a very special one for our constituency and intellectual interests inside the larger AAASS community. Not only is past AWSS President Beth Holmgren, one of the great supporters of our group, the AAASS President, but gender is the theme of the conference. In addition, AWSS will celebrate its twentieth anniversary at this conference. Given all these great circumstances, we believe it is imperative that this year we make ourselves seen and heard at the conference as never before, and along those lines, we want to put a special effort in helping to bring to Philadelphia colleagues from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

With this goal in mind, AWSS is launching a fundraising campaign. The organization already has some modest funds (\$800) to support these foreign scholars, and we would like to augment them by making a pledge to offer matching amounts out of our investment fund for each dollar that is donated by our AWSS members into this travel fund. If you offer \$20, AWSS will add \$20 to the fund. If you offer \$50, we will double that. If you are feeling very generous and want to offer \$500, we will also gladly add \$500 to that. For those donating \$50 or more, we will include your name in an upcoming issue of the newsletter, as well as our website. Note that contributions to AWSS are tax-deductible!

Please send your contributions as soon as possible to: Dr. Kris Groberg, 324D Department of Visual Arts, NDSU Downtown Campus, 650 NP Avenue, Fargo, ND 58102. Please be sure to make your check out to AWSS.

*—Maria Bucur, Vice President/President-Elect and the AWSS Board*

## ☞ 2008 AWSS GRANTS AND PRIZES

### **Funding opportunity: Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) Travel Grants to Conferences for Scholars from the Former CIS and Soviet Block Countries**

AWSS is pleased to announce that it once again will be awarding grants to scholars from the former Soviet Union and Soviet bloc countries to help support research or conference travel. Conference or research topics must be related to the mission of the AWSS, to encourage women's studies and support women scholars. If you are interested in applying, please send the following information to Rochelle Ruthchild, Committee Chair, at: [ruthchil@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthchil@yahoo.com):

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

*Deadlines: February 1 and **June 15, 2008.*** Those receiving grants will be required to submit a brief report on their funded activities.

### **2008 HELDT PRIZES**

*Deadline: May 1, 2008*

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies invites nominations for the 2008 Heldt Prizes for works of scholarship and translation, which will be awarded at the AWSS meeting at the AAASS National Convention in Philadelphia in November 2008. To be eligible for nomination, all books and articles for the first three prize categories must be published between 15 May 2007 and 15 April 2008. The publication dates for the translation prize, which is offered every other year, are 1 June 2006 to 15 April 2008.

1. Best book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian women's studies;
2. Best article in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian women's studies;
3. Best book by a woman in any area of Slavic/East European/Eurasian studies.
4. Best translation in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian women's studies.

One may nominate works in more than one category, and more than one item in each category. Articles included in collections will be considered for the "best article" Prize only if they are individually nominated.

To nominate any work, please send or request that the publisher send one copy to each of the four members of the Prize committee by *May 1, 2008*:

Maria Bucur  
Indiana University  
8400 Ketcham Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47403

Helena Gosciolo  
University of Pittsburgh  
1015 Portland St.  
Pittsburgh PA 15206

Choi Chatterjee  
University of Southern California  
2239 Holliston Ave,  
Altadena, CA 91001

Sarah Phillips  
Department of Anthropology  
130 Student Building  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405

### **2008 GRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE**

*Deadline: July 15, 2008*

The 2008 AWSS Graduate Essay Prize will be awarded to the best dissertation chapter or article-length essay in

any field or area of Slavic/East European/Central Asian Studies written by a woman or on a topic in Slavic/East European/Central Asian Women's Studies written by a woman or a man. This competition is open only to current doctoral students or to those who defended a doctoral dissertation in 2007-2008. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2007-2008. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Previous submissions and published materials are ineligible. Essays should be no longer than 50 pages, including reference matter, and in English (quoted text in any other language should be translated). The award carries a cash prize of \$250; the winner will be announced at the AAASS national convention in November. Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to Natasha Kolchevska, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, 229 Ortega Hall, MSC03 2080, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. *All submissions must be postmarked by July 15<sup>th</sup>.*

### **AWSS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Deadline: September 15, 2008*

The Outstanding Achievement Award Committee of the Association of Women in Slavic Studies invites nominations for its 2008 prize. To nominate, please 1) write a letter detailing what your candidate for this award has achieved in Slavic Studies in terms of a) scholarship or other professional accomplishment and b) mentoring of female students/colleagues; 2) provide a short list of references with accompanying email addresses so that the committee can contact these referees discreetly for further information. We'd recommend that this list include both peers and students/staff.

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

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

### **2008 ZIRIN AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

*Deadline: November 1, 2008*

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

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

The committee urges the nomination of candidates at all career stages. For the purpose of this award, an independent scholar is defined as a scholar (1) who is not employed at an institution of higher learning, or (2) who may be employed by a university or college but who is not eligible to compete for institutional support for research (for example, those teaching under short-term contracts or working in administrative posts). We urge nominations of worthy scholars from the CIS and from Central and Eastern Europe.

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



### ***✍ Submission deadline for Summer WEW***

The submission deadline for Summer 2008 issue is **July 1, 2008**. All submissions (or queries about potential submissions) should be sent directly to the editor at [monniern@missouri.edu](mailto:monniern@missouri.edu).

## New AWSS Board Members: Ghodsee and Livezeanu

*In Decemeber 2007, AWSS members elected Kristen Ghodsee and Irina Livezeanu to replace outgoing board members Magdalena Vanya and Angela Brintlinger on the AWSS Board. Their terms will run from 2008 through 2010.*

**Kristen Ghodsee** has her Ph.D. From the University of California, Berkeley and is currently an Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies in Maine. She has been doing ethnographic research in Bulgaria since 1998, and has been an active member of the AAASS since 2000. Her first book, *The Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism and Postsocialism on the Black Sea*, came out with Duke University Press in 2005 and charted the fortunes of women weathering the storms of economic transition in Bulgaria's tourism industry. Her second book, tentatively titled *Minarets after Marx: Gender, Ethnicity and Islam in Postsocialist Bulgaria*, is forthcoming with Princeton University Press.

Kristen's articles on gender, civil society, religious freedoms and women's issues in Eastern Europe have appeared in journals such as *Signs*, *Social Politics*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Women's Studies International Forum* and *Human Rights Dialogue*. She is the recipient of national fellowships from Fulbright, NCEEER, IREX and ACLS as well as the winner of a residential research fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 2005-2006. In 2006-2007, she was a Member in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. She is currently beginning work on a third book project that examines the history of secularism in Eastern Orthodox religious traditions.

As a newly-minted AWSS board member, Kristen says, "I am very excited to have been elected and hope to contribute my energy and enthusiasm to serving this

great organization. One of my goals is to get more social scientists involved in AWSS in order to expand our membership base and promote more interdisciplinary collaborations between women studying similar issues in the same country."

**Irina Livezeanu** received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and has been teaching Eastern European history at the University of Pittsburgh since 1994, after briefer appointments at the Ohio State University and Colby College. She specializes in social and cultural history and teaches courses on Eastern Europe, Eastern European Jewry, Gender and Nationalism and Film and History.

Irina has published extensively on nationalism and nation-building in Romania, Holocaust historiography, and on aspects of the politics of culture. Her book, *Cultural Politics in Greater Romania: Regionalism, Nation Building, and Ethnic Struggle, 1918-1930* (Cornell University Press, 1995 and 2000) has been translated into Romanian and re-issued in paperback by Cornell UP. It received two book prizes, including one from AWSS. Her articles have appeared in *EEPS* and *Austrian History Yearbook*, among others. She has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, including IREX, NCEEER, American Philosophical Society, Library of Congress, and Collegium Budapest. She is relieved to have completed last year, together with three co-editors, the two-volume *Women & Gender in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia: A Comprehensive Bibliography* published for the AWSS by M.E. Sharpe. At present, Irina is working on a book project that focuses on the relationship between ideas, art and politics in Romania, provisionally titled *The New Generation and the Avant-Garde: Ideas, Art and Politics in Romania, 1916-1947*. This past fall she curated the film series "Romanian Cinema on the Edge."

Irina is pleased to return to the AWSS board for a second time, and she hopes to work on bringing more East Europeanists into the organization. 🍷

## 🍷 Book Review 🍷

***I Want to Live: The Diary of a Young Girl in Stalin's Russia.*** By Nina Lugovskaya, trans. Andrew Bromfield. Foreword by Anne Fine. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. xix, 280 pp. Introduction. Bibliography and further reading. Hardcover.

In 1933 at age 14, Moscow schoolgirl Nina Lugovskaya tore down a Communist poster urging Soviet citizens to purchase state loan bonds to help finance the

Second Five-Year Plan. In her diary the next day, she recorded her disgust with the Communist Party, claiming that it was composed of "band of villains," people who were "bossing everyone around as if we're obliged to obey them, as if we had to listen to what every scumbag says and revere Stalin" (p. 45). Nina's anti-Soviet behavior and words were brazen and dangerous, particularly because of her father's past as a Socialist Revolutionary and his political persecution as a counter-revolutionary, including

arrests, imprisonment, and exile (first in Siberia and later in Kazakhstan). Because of Nina's father's position, and the political repression of the Stalinist 1930s, had the "wrong" person witnessed Nina's destruction of the poster or uncovered the politically hostile comments in her diary in 1933, Nina would not have been viewed merely as an insolent teenager. Indeed, when the secret police did discover her diary four years later, they used it as evidence to indict Nina, and her mother and sisters, as enemies of the people, and to incarcerate them for years in a Kolyma labor camp.

Spanning from October 1932 to January 1937, Nina's diary is a remarkable document. It offers the recollections of not only an ordinary citizen but a girl teenager, setting it apart from the many well-known and excellent memoirs of adult members of the intelligentsia. On the one hand it reveals a typical adolescent of the time -- caught up in the social world of her classmates, plagued by self-doubt, and obsessed with boys, romance, and "love." On the other hand it shows a politically independent and informed young woman. Unlike her seemingly apolitical sisters, Nina is explicitly anti-Soviet, and expresses outrage at the "evil Bolsheviks" and the "false" system of socialism they have established. Repeatedly upset with the "mirage" of women's liberation, Nina also rails against her father's contempt for women, and women's subordination to men in Soviet society. Although many of the diary's passages focus on personal matters, Nina's political invective against the Bolsheviks and critique of existing gender roles -- in combination with her miscellaneous anti-Semitic and anti-worker remarks as well as her commentary on current events (such as the Chelyushkin expedition in 1934), Soviet stores, and life in the countryside -- provide an important window on the political, social, and economic landscape of Stalinism. Surprisingly, given the Soviet regime's considerable efforts to cover it up, Nina even discusses the 1933 famine in the Ukraine, holding the Bolsheviks responsible for the hunger-related deaths of millions of peasants. (Unfortunately for the reader, Nina does not reveal how she knows about the famine.)

Nina's diary, as the introduction notes, tells us about the "horror of Stalin's Terror." It does indeed, detailing the horrible antics of the secret police: the searches of homes, unwelcome knocks at doors, interrogations and arrests of loved ones. But even though Nina's personal family experience and diary point to a growing climate of political repression and purges in the 1930s, Nina and her classmates don't appear particularly fearful. They repeatedly engage in pranks and act out against teachers at school. They organize a "boycott" of a fellow student for

telling "slanderous lies" about the girls (including Nina) who had dared to abandon the Young Pioneers. Instead of shying away from controversy to avoid unnecessary attention, Nina and her friend Ira, whose father had also been arrested, circulate a petition against a change in school policy, which almost all the classmates sign. The boys in Nina's school concoct a spoof decree from a fake emperor, alarming school administrators. Nina and her friend Ksyusha "often curse the authorities and pick on people in the street" (p. 181). Interestingly, although it was not uncommon during the repression of the 1930s for friends and colleagues to abandon relationships with individuals whose family members had been arrested, Nina's diary also suggests that neither Nina, her sisters, nor Ira suffer social ostracism because of their fathers' political "crimes" and incarcerations. This lack of social ostracism, and Nina and her friend's rebellious behavior, underscore the limited ability of Communist authorities to use fear and repression to control society and subdue in people what Nina calls a "spirit of protest."

This is not the first English-language publication of Nina's diary. Houghton Mifflin's version is longer than an earlier one published by Glas and Northwestern University Press in 2003. It contains not only *more* but also *different* excerpts from Nina's original diary as well as interesting extracts of letters from Nina's father to his daughters. The Houghton Mifflin edition additionally provides extremely useful explanatory notes for specific passages, making Nina's diary more user-friendly for undergraduate readers and non-specialists in Russian and Soviet history. One of the best features of both versions is also a drawback. Both versions highlight diary sentences that the NKVD underlined as incriminating evidence against Nina, which offers insight into the ideas, attitudes, and behaviors the secret police and Soviet authorities found objectionable. The problem is that the sentences highlighted in the two different texts do not always match, even when they cover the same diary passage. This raises the question: which sections of the diary did the NKVD "really" deem problematic?

At times Nina's teenager angst is tedious, making her diary difficult to read. Ultimately, however, this book should not be missed because it offers an invaluable perspective on growing up female in the Stalinist 1930s. I highly recommend its use in undergraduate courses on Soviet history.

—Amy E. Randall, Santa Clara University



### ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE (1908-2008)

On a brisk sunny St. Petersburg morning, the conference on “The Legal Status of Women in Russia: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” convened in the Blue Hall of the Herzen Institute on the banks of the Moika River. Held for the first two days (March 21-22) at the Herzen Institute and on the third and final day at the Nevskii Institute, the conference showcased the research of fifty scholars, mostly from Russia and Ukraine, but with the participation of six U.S. scholars (Michelle DenBeste, Dan Kaiser, Rochelle Ruthchild, Elena Schulman, Tricia Starks, and Christine Worobec) as well as several from western Europe (Sweden, Switzerland, and France). The language of the conference was Russian. In all, ninety people attended, and fifty scholars presented their research. Panels included the following: “The History of the Legal Status of Women (3 sessions),” “The First Women’s Congress of 1908 and the Women’s Movement in Russia,” “Women’s Experience and Women’s Identity,” “The History of the Legal Status of Women,” “From Protofeminism to the Women’s Movement,” “Women’s Experience and Women’s Identity in Life and in Literature,” “The Women’s Movement in Russian and Europe: Similarities and Differences,” “Violence Against Women,” “Problems of Women’s Political Activism in Contemporary Russia,” “Approaches to the Study of Girls,” “Women and Religion,” “The Gendered Transformation of Motherhood,” “Women’s Experience, Women’s Letters, and Women’s Identity,” “Gender Discourses,” “Problems of Women’s Daily Life,” “Women and War,” “Women’s Professional Employment,” and “The History of Women’s Education.”

The conference voted to form the Russian National Committee and affiliate formally with the International Federation for Research in Women’s History (IFRWH). Natalya Pushkareva was chosen President of the Committee and Marianna Muravyeva, Natalya Novikova, Irina Iukina, and Olga Shnyrova were elected to the Committee’s Board.

The organizers of the conference, Marianna Muravyeva, Natalya Pushkareva, Natalya Novikova, and Irina Iukina, deserve honor and recognition for all the work they did organizing this conference in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the 1908 First All-Russian Women’s Congress, the largest pre-revolutionary women’s public gathering, held in St. Petersburg.

☛ –Rochelle G. Ruthchild, Research Associate, Davis Center, Harvard University, and Clerk, AWSS



Conference attendees in repose. From left to right Maria Zolotukhina, Christine Worobec, Michelle Denbeste and son Paul, Dan Kaiser. Note: The final program of the conference will be posted on the AWSS website.

## News of Members

*Submissions for "News of Members" for the Summer edition should be sent directly to the editor (monniern@missouri.edu) by July 1st.*

**Sharon Marie Carnicke** (Theatre and Slavic, USC) has been commissioned to write a chapter for the second edition of *Twentieth Century Actor Training* on Maria Knebel', the prominent Soviet director and teacher who was a hidden but major influence on the revival of Russian theatre in the 1960s and 1970s. She is also revising her book *Stanislavsky in Focus* for a second edition to be published in January 2009. The new edition will contain significant new material on the censorship of Stanislavsky's books in the late 1930s and on his use of the banned spirituality of Yoga. Finally, her co-authored book (with Cynthia Baron) *Reframing Screen Performance* is coming out in April with University of Michigan Press;

**Sarah Krive** (Russian Studies, Lloyd International Honors College, UNC-Greensboro) is co-editor of the recently published *Poetics. Self. Place. Essays in Honors of Anna Lisa Crone*, edited by Catherine O'Neil, Nicole Boudreau and Sarah Krive (Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 2007).

**Adele Lindenmeyr** (History, Villanova University) has received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for 2008-2009 to write her book *Citizen Countess: The Lives of Sofia Panina, 1871-1956*.



## CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

### GENERAL

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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you would like an announcement or query to be posted in the next issue of WEW, please send your text directly to the editor ([monniern@missouri.edu](mailto:monniern@missouri.edu)) by June 15th.*

### **CFP: Return of the Song: The Milman Parry Collection and Its Reception in the World, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 3-6, 2008**

Since its inception in the 1930s The Milman Parry Collection at Harvard University has played a central role in our understanding of oral literature, its formation, transmission, and cultural significance in different epochs and with different groups of people. Despite its predominantly South-Slavic corpus, the theories that sprang from it have had considerably broader ramifications. These have stretched far beyond both the Hellenic and Slavic worlds, which were the focus of research of Milman Parry and Albert Lord, the two scholars who established it. It is now hardly possible to find an oral tradition in the world the research on which has not been touched by the theories of Parry and Lord. The two researchers embarked on a challenging journey in search of the origins of the Iliad and the Odyssey. Along the way, they captured a slice of a bygone time in the archive they left behind, thereby allowing many other researchers to continue traveling and discovering.

The goal of this conference is to provide a forum for scholars who have used the Parry-Lord theories or archival materials in their own work. In conjunction with this, we welcome papers on any aspect of oral traditional literatures from around the world. Areas of focus include (but are not limited to) cultural and anthropological studies, stylistic investigation of oral traditional forms, linguistic issues in the study of oral traditions, mythology, ethnomusicology, performance analysis, problems of genre, the crossroads of oral and institutional literatures, the collecting and classification of folk materials, questions of memory and composition-in-performance, cross-regional folklore studies, and the role of information technology in folklore research.

*The application deadline is May 1st, 2008. To apply: register online at the conference website or send paper abstract and contact information to [avidan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:avidan@fas.harvard.edu). The conference is being organized by the School of Humanities, University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina; The Milman Parry Collection of Oral Literature, Harvard University; and Public and University Library Tuzla. Official languages of the conference are Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, and English. More information may be found at*

the conference website: [http://chs.harvard.edu/chs/return\\_of\\_the\\_song\\_povratak\\_pjesme](http://chs.harvard.edu/chs/return_of_the_song_povratak_pjesme)

### **CFP: *Lilith* 2008**

*Lilith* is a fully refereed academic journal based in the History Department at the University of Melbourne. Since the early 1980s, *Lilith* has provided a valuable forum for new and established scholars to present research in feminist history. The journal is published annually in November and includes a substantial book review section. The editorial board is currently seeking articles for Edition 17.

We warmly welcome all submissions based on substantial and original historical work focused around women, gender, sexuality and other related issues. We encourage contributions from both new and established scholars in these fields, as well as postgraduates. Submissions considered for publication are assessed via a double-blind peer review process.

Following last year's symposium we particularly welcome papers around the theme "Her-story: Histories of Feminist Representation." We encourage histories of representations of feminism in mainstream media and academia as well as histories of counter- and sub-cultural representations of feminism. This may include film, television, radio, theatre, visual art and written texts.

All submissions should be around 6,000 words in length, including endnotes, and accompanied by abstracts of around 150 words. Please ensure manuscripts adhere to our style guide, available from [www.history.unimelb.edu.au/lilith](http://www.history.unimelb.edu.au/lilith). Please send submissions by the May 23rd to [history-lilith@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:history-lilith@unimelb.edu.au), or: *Lilith* Collective, Department of History, University of Melbourne, Vic 3010, Fax: (03) 8344 7894

### **CFP: The Problem of Sources in [Turkish] Women's Memory from the Ottoman Era to the Present**

From 17-19 April 2009, as part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, the Women's Library and Information Centre [WLIC] will be holding an international symposium on "The Problem of Source in Women's Memory from the Ottoman Era to the Present."

The symposium will offer, we believe, the broadest examination to date on "sources in women's studies and women's history." Our aim is to create a setting in which a broad range of international women researchers and women historians can come together and share their research findings.



We are addressing the issue of sources because in Turkey, as in many other parts of the world, women researchers and women historians find these sources at their disposal rarely include gender-based classifications. We hope that this symposium will provide an opportunity to share experiences about problems tackled and solved (or not, as the case may be) in using these sources. In addition, we plan to develop a common gender-based policy on the problem of sources in women's memory and publish it at the end of the symposium in order to facilitate the development of a new policy by relevant organizations and institutions.

Through this symposium, we aim to raise and discuss a wide range of issues including, but not limited to, the policies of official state institutions concerning documents on issues relating to women, the evaluation of documents on women's issues from a gender perspective, the process of preparing a national catalogue on women's documents, as seen in a number of other countries, the problem of awareness in the conservation of these sources, the destruction or deletion of sources for political or other special reasons. During the symposium we expect to learn of new and enlightening approaches, and we hope that our discussions, and the resolutions at the end of the symposium, will provide guidance and leadership to official and private institutions on their handling of documents and archives relating to women's studies and women's history.

Papers submitted for this symposium will be collected, evaluated and selected by an evaluation committee, and selected presentations will be published before the symposium for dissemination during the sessions. No participation fee will be required from researchers wishing to attend the symposium. Women researchers and women historians wishing to present their paper to the international symposium should send titles of proposed papers together with a 300-500 word summary to the symposium secretariat *by 1 June 2008* (see below). Once papers have been selected, a second call will be sent to those preparing the selected papers on 1 August 2008, so that papers can be prepared in conformity with a jointly agreed style and format. The final 5,000-15,000 word texts of the papers will be sent by 1 December 2008 to the secretariat by e-mail. The Women's Library and Information Centre and the Kadir Has University will prepare and publish a book based on a collection of the papers submitted to the Women's Library and Information Centre, prefaced with a substantial introduction, for launch and sale at the opening of the symposium on 17 April 2009.

Dr. Bekir Kemal Ataman, Symposium Secretariat  
Assoc. Prof. of Archives, Records and Information

Management  
Marmara University, Faculty of Engineering  
Department of Industrial Engineering  
Goztepe, Istanbul, Turkiye  
Tel: +90-216-348-0292 Ext. 225

**CFP: Screened Sexuality: Desire in Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Cinema**

Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Harriman Institute,  
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Columbia  
University, October 10-11, 2008

The close association between cinema and sexual desire has been established since the inception of cinematography. Set at the juncture of secrecy and exhibitionism, cinema provides a powerful medium for both the orchestration of spectatorial desire and reflection on human sexuality, which, at least since the works of Christian Metz and The Screen theorists, have become a subject of sustained scholarly analysis. Studies of individual film genres have shed light on the staging of sexual desire in topoi ranging from thriller plots to melodramatic mise-en-scene, while, starting with the works of Linda Williams, the study of the cinematic representation of the sexual act has also become firmly entrenched in cinema studies.

At the same time, studies of sexual desire in a given cinematic tradition cutting across the boundaries of genres and theories remain scarce, and the field of Russian, Soviet and Post-Soviet cinema is not an exception. Although there are a number of works on the representation of femininity, masculinity and gender politics in this cinematic tradition, few scholars of the subject address sexual desire *per se*. Even when desire is addressed, existing studies tend to put the stress upon the ways (apparently "natural") sexuality is repressed, "perverted" or appropriated, mainly for political purposes, rather than upon the cinematic mechanisms that create a sexual dynamic between diegetic characters or the spectator and the screen.

This conference aims to explore the ways sexual desire is articulated in and constituted by cinema. While realizing that sexuality is implicated in a potentially unlimited number of phenomena, many of which find their reflection in films, we solicit papers that focus specifically on sexual desire and address it in medium-specific and theoretically sophisticated ways. The boundaries of the cinematic material to be discussed, on the contrary, will be left open within the broad expanse of Russian, Soviet and Post-Soviet space: we encourage papers that juxtapose cinematic desires from that space with those of other cinematic traditions, papers that combine close readings of

individual films with reflections on the limits of Western theories of cinematic sexuality, and papers that trace the continuities and discontinuities in the way cinematic desire is represented, aroused, and transformed across time and space in the region.

Please send your abstract (300 words) and CV by June 15, 2008 to Andrey Shcherbenok at [avs2120@columbia.edu](mailto:avs2120@columbia.edu). Finalists will be contacted in early September, 2008.

### CFP: *Journal of Women's History*

For a special issue of the *Journal of Women's History* on "Critical Feminist Biography", we invite short submissions (approximately 1000 words) for a roundtable on "The Subject and Critical Feminist Biography." In this roundtable, we ask scholars from various fields who have been engaged in biographical projects to reflect on how the subjects of feminist biography get consolidated. What sorts of filters operate through the process of biographical work, from a scholar's choice of subject to the pressures publishers may exert that result in highlighting some subjects and not others. Equally important, how are life histories written, in what forms do they emerge given scholarly commitments to issues of representation and silencing that feminist theory and praxis foregrounds?

Given that women, children, people of color, people of the global South, and other subjects deemed marginal to dominant historical narratives continue to have a vexed relationship to conventional archives and given that such archives may continue to be constituted in ways that exclude such subjects as how do we write biographies of social actors whose marginal energies we want to highlight and interrogate? This question may become especially apposite when such subjects move across local, regional, and national borders, and/or if they do not appear to embody an autonomous, discrete subjectivity. When, as subjects of oral histories or interviews, they are actively co-producers of accounts of their own lives, what kinds of differences does this make in the production of biography and, as feminist scholars, what kinds of investments do we make in such co-productions and how do we (or ought we) to foreground the processes by which these life narratives come into being?

Another question that might be asked is: what nodes of reception surround (or haunt) biography written as a kind of feminist praxis? How do historians receive and use biography as a source? For historians who foreground gender and women, does biography continue to offer a useful arena for feminist historical scholarship, or does it as a genre risk overemphasizing the recuperative and

celebratory aspects of earlier women's history? This question links back to that of the pressures on the biographer as a result of the multinational capitalist configuration of the publishing industry. What kinds of compromises must be made, if any, to move feminist biography outside of the academy? Can we articulate a feminist politics to a broader audience through biography?

*Our due date for submissions to this roundtable is July 15, 2008.* Editors for this special issue are Marilyn Booth and Antoinette Burton. Please send queries to [womenshistory@uiuc.edu](mailto:womenshistory@uiuc.edu).

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

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

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

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



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Issue 93

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

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