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SLAVIC, EURASIAN, AND
EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES.

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Dr. Dubravka Zarkov Lecture as Part of “Gender, War, and Culture” Series



Dr. Dubravka Zarkov speaking at the FedEx Global Education Center at UNC Chapel Hill

On September 18th, Dr. Dubravka Zarkov, an associate professor of gender, conflict, and development at the International Institute for Social Studies, delivered a lecture entitled “Masculinity, Sexual Violence, and Ethnicity in the 1990s Balkan Wars and Beyond.” Her talk was co-sponsored by the Duke-UNC Gender, War, and Culture Series and CSEEEES. Dr. Zarkov’s lecture examined various forms of violence against men, especially sexual violence in contemporary wars, comparing the cases of the former Yugoslavia and Abu Ghraib.

Dr. Zarkov discussed the role of media in both hiding and making this violence more visible and the deeper meanings of these exposures and invisibilities.

Zumrat Salmorbekova, interim associate director of CSEEEES, sat down with Dr. Zarkov for an interview before her lecture.

ZS: Please tell us about yourself and your research. How did you get into your research field?

DZ: I live and work in The Hague, Netherlands. I came to the Netherlands at the end of the 1980s from Yugoslavia to obtain my MA in sexuality, gender and socialism, looking at socialist projects on women’s emancipation, specifically focusing on rural women. My family lives in Belgrade in Serbia now, although my father and mother come from different parts of the former Yugoslavia. When the war in Yugoslavia started in 1991, I was in Netherlands studying and doing my Master’s degree and was already very much into the issues of sexuality and gender.

My work could be placed somewhere between gender, war and media studies. This combination allows me to look at the contemporary wars from very different perspectives. My PhD research looked at, on the one hand, media representations of war, and on the other, women’s experiences of war. I focused on one main daily and one main weekly newspaper from Serbia and Croatia. I started with a classical feminist approach to women, but as I worked, the issue of masculinity and sexual violence against men kept coming to my attention. Ever since the mid-1990s, when I started working on my PhD, the focus of my research has been on masculinity, on different ideas about manhood and men’s involvement in war, and sexual violence against men. Sexual violence against men is not a topic widely discussed, but it clearly happens. So I was interested to know, if it happens, why we are not hearing about it? What is it about manhood that keeps these stories hidden?

Chad Bryant (Associate Professor, History) recently published, with Paul Readman and Cynthia Radding, an edited volume entitled *Borderlands in World History, 1700-1914* (Palgrave, 2014). The volume emerged from a conference organized in conjunction with UNC's ongoing collaboration with King's College London and includes several essays related to Russian and East European history.

Besir Ceka (PhD Political Science, 2013) began as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Davidson University in Fall 2014.

Trevor Erlacher (PhD Candidate, History) will have his article "The Birth of Ukrainian 'Active Nationalism': Dmytro Dontsov and Heterodox Marxism before the First World War, 1883-1914," published in *Modern Intellectual History*. Trevor is conducting doctoral research in Lviv and Kyiv, Ukraine, for 10 months as a Fullbright Fellow. Trevor also recently won the Fullbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for 2014.

Regina Grol (CSEEEES Fellow) gave a lecture entitled "Transferred Trauma: The Second Generation," as part of the History and Politics Speaker Series at Daemen College

Gary Guadagnolo (PhD Candidate, History) is completing dissertation research in Kazan, Russia, thanks to a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award. He has presented at several conferences in Russia and published two articles, "The ABCs of Tatar: Multilingual Accommodation and Soviet Language Politics" in *Russian Journal of Communication* and "Musa Dzhali" na Tatarskom rabochem fakul'tete" in *Gasyrlar avazy - Ekho vekov*.

Cassandra Hartblay (PhD Candidate, Anthropology) has two new articles in print - an essay on disability and dependency in Russia "A Genealogy of (post-)Soviet Dependency: Disabling Productivity," in *Disability Studies Quarterly*, and an essay developed with mentors and colleagues at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, "Welcome to Sergeichburg: Disability, Crip Performance, and the Comedy of Recognition in Russia," in *Journal of Social Policy Studies*. A coauthored piece with Dr. Michele Rivkin-Fish (Anthropology) on LGBTQ Rights in Russia is forthcoming.

Title VI Disappointment In late September, the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies consortium learned that its application to the U.S. Department of Education for Title VI grants for the 2014-2018 period was not successful. CSEEEES appreciates the support of its colleagues and partners for their help in the application process.

Irene Masing-Delic (Research Professor, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) published the article "Martin Edelweiss's Quest for Glory, Guided by Prospero and Other Wizards" in *Scando-Slavica*.

Louise McReynolds' (Professor, History) book *Russia at Play: Leisure Activities at the End of the Tsarist Era* was translated into Japanese by Hosei University Press. She also delivered the Michael Petrovich Lecture at the University of Wisconsin at Madison on May 8, 2014, "Crime Fiction in Late Imperial Russia," and a paper, "Archeology in the Graphosphere: Writing, not Digging," at the Symposium on Information Technologies and Transfer in Russia, 1450-1850, Darwin College, Cambridge, Sept., 2014.

Hana Pichova's (Associate Professor, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) book, *The Case of The Missing Statue: A Historical and Literary Study of The Stalin Monument in Prague*, will be published by Arbor Vitae, in Prague in November.

Donald J. Raleigh (Professor, History) guest edited the Spring 2014 issue of *Russian Studies in History* and has written the introduction to it, "Russia's Favorite: Reevaluating the Rule of Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, 1964-82."

Stephen Riegg (PhD Candidate, History) recently published an op-ed in the *Moscow Times* entitled "Russia Can't Let Nagorno-Karabakh Slip Into War."

2014 MA RUES Graduates

CSEEEES is happy to congratulate the 2014 graduates of the Russian and East European Studies (RUES) program. Listed below are the titles of their Master's theses

Adnan Dzhumur "Visual Interventions in Collapsing States: Practices, Spaces, Subjects"

Luke Gensler "Pots, Putty, and Wires: Croatian Separatist Terrorism and the Hijacking of TWA 355"

Rosavera Kneller "Haversacks vs Heligons: Czech Tramping and the Forging of a Bohemian Wilderness"

Melissa McDonald "How Regimes Dictate Oligarchs and their Football Clubs: Case Studies Comparison of Oligarch Football Club Ownership in Dagestan, Romania, & Transnistria from 1990-2014"

Zach Tewell "Information Communication Technologies in Russia's North Caucasus Republics"

Justin Williams "Persistent Statelessness in Post-Soviet Latvia and Estonia"

DR. ZARKOV INTERVIEW

Continued from page 1

ZS: What do you find most interesting and challenging about your research?

DZ: It is both interesting and challenging to start thinking about men and masculinity. It is extremely challenging to expand the focus from women to include men. And it is always challenging to turn theory into practice. We all hear that gender is more than simply about women and men, but how much more, and how do you deal with it in research, how do you analyze the world around you? It is challenging to disassociate concepts and power relationships that are based on our ideas about femininity and masculinity from the lives of women and men and still uphold these lives as important.

ZS: What contribution does your work bring to feminist scholarship and what are its overall implications for policies and strategies in the field of international peace and security? In other words, where and how does your work fit into “the big picture?”

DZ: I stand on the shoulders of other scholars, feminist and mainstream scholarship, who have analyzed lives of women and men in war, and the dynamics of war beyond identity politics. Reducing geo-politics to identity politics makes us not just blind in terms of how economics and politics work in war, but also precludes us from building solidarities. I think building solidarities across regions and social groups is necessary if we want to understand and influence some of these processes. A challenge remains: what is conflict transformation, can scholarship influence its processes, and if so, how? However, I believe that we may consider ourselves lucky as scholars and lecturers if we manage to influence a couple of students to see the world a little bit differently. Talking about concepts like security and conflict transformation, I think these are the kind of concepts that are currently gaining in relevance both in politics and theory. But we should analyze the narratives within which these concepts operate and see where are they coming from; we should look at these concepts in terms of how are they explained and understood by people, communities who are actually experiencing insecurity, conflict and violence. It should not be just women's perspective, but women and men, young and old, how they engaged in influencing their daily lives, their visions and hopes of how freedom and non-violent solution to problems can be found.

ZS: What do you think will change in the nature and gender construction of contemporary wars in the future?

DZ: As feminists, we kind of always hope that gender will be taken into account, that there will be the understanding that women's lives and women's experiences are to a certain extent differ from men's. But gender is not the only line of differentiation. There are also experiences that are shared. Other social realities, such as those linked to class and ethnicity, create differences both between and among women and men. What we see now is that women's lives and ideas about femininity and masculinity are used by the militaries in order to justify invasions.

We see how the rape of women, and how women's suffering, is used to justify military interventions. For instance, Israeli state often justifies its occupation of Palestinian territories, by demonizing Palestinian men and depicting Palestinian women as their victims. The state of Israel never defines Palestinian women as victims of Israeli occupation, always as victims of religion and patriarchy. The 1991 US war against Iraq, after Iraq attacked Kuwait, was justified by narratives that Iraqi soldiers raped Kuwaiti women. The occupation of Afghanistan was justified by narratives of how Taliban forces were destroying Afghani women's lives. So we see that gender has become one of the tools by which military power is being exercising in the world. I am afraid that this is going to be used even more. I see the incredible capacity of militarism and the right wing politics to appropriate some of the feminists' and other social movements' struggles and concepts of justice. Take, for example, the concept of human rights. Everybody is fighting in the name of 'human rights,' especially militaries. As social justice actors, we have to be aware of how our analytical tools are appropriated and used against us and against our struggles.

Although it is tricky to give predictions, the way I see today's processes is that we are in a period of sharpening and widening the divisions within and between societies. War has become a major tool for amassing economic and political power. I am worried that wars are going to escalate even further in the future.

MEET THE NEW MA STUDENTS IN
THE RUSSIAN, EURASIAN, AND EAST EUROPEAN CONCENTRATION

Rainier Jaarsma is a Fulbright student from the Netherlands. Prior to studying at UNC, he lived in the Balkans, most notably in the Republic of Macedonia. In Skopje, he was a lecturer in American literature at a private university and worked as a film actor and debate moderator. Rainier received degrees in American Studies and Philosophy from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and was an exchange student at South Carolina's College of Charleston and the University of Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. His main interests are intimately connected with the republics of the Former Yugoslavia; especially with the interethnic trifles that continue to haunt the region. In Chapel Hill, he wishes to continue his research, particularly by focusing on soft intervention and the deterioration of interethnic relations in the Western Balkans.

Taylor Cayce is from Kansas City, Missouri, and is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. He is interested in how imperial rule worked and changed in the Russian Empire under Catherine the Great. He is also increasingly interested in humanitarian intervention and the role that contemporary Russia plays in those ventures. After finishing at UNC, Taylor hopes to go into government work with the State department or in some other way so that he can leverage his interest about humanitarian intervention in his work.

Ben Midas is from Chesapeake, Virginia and studied history and Russian language at Virginia Tech. As an undergraduate, Ben focused on the Caucasus and how religion has affected the region both historically and in the present day. He plans to continue this research while at UNC and travel to the region.

Branwen Gallagher is originally from Massachusetts but attended college at the University of Redlands in California. She double majored in History and Government, focusing much of her attention on Russia and Eastern Europe. During the fall semester of her junior year, Branwen studied Russian history, culture, and language at St. Petersburg State University in Russia. After college, she joined the Peace Corps and served as a Teaching English as a Foreign Language volunteer in Armenia. At UNC, Branwen wants to study Russia's relationship with other post-Soviet nations, particularly those in the Caucasus.

Jason Jones is from Durham, North Carolina and studied Russian Language and Culture at UNC as an undergraduate. After graduating, he taught English as a Second Language at a private school in Busan, Korea, for two years. Now returning to UNC to continue his studies in Russian, Jason is looking at the world and "the global" from many different perspectives, not just from a linguistic or cultural one. He spends a few hours a week at an elementary school in Chapel Hill helping with ESL instruction.

Jason is looking at the world and "the global" from many different perspectives, not just from a linguistic or cultural one. He spends a few hours a week at an elementary school in Chapel Hill helping with ESL instruction.

Rebecca Neal grew up in Chapel Hill and earned her undergraduate degree from East Carolina University where she majored in Management Information Systems. After graduating in May 2013, she moved to Melbourne, Australia, for 6 months and worked for the Australian Red Cross' Migration Support Program, which in part inspired her to pursue a Master's Degree in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Rebecca intends to focus her research on the Balkans, specifically the role of humanitarian aid organizations during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s.



From Left to Right: Jason Jones, Branwen Gallagher, Rebecca Neal, Taylor Cayce, Rainier Jaarsma, Ben Midas

Roundtable on the War in Ukraine



Dr. Graeme Robertson presenting his research at the roundtable

On October 10th, 2014, CSEEEES co-sponsored with the Curriculum in Global Studies and the Center for European Studies a roundtable on the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine. Dr. Milada Vachudova, chair of Global Studies, and Dr. Robert Jenkins, director of CSEEEES, served as moderators. Dr. Maria Popova (McGill University), Dr. Grigore Pop-Eleches (Pinceton University), Anna Yudina (UNC MA RUES 2015), and Dr. Graeme Robertson (UNC Political Science) participated in the roundtable. Popova outlined how the ongoing war has obscured efforts to build a functioning democracy in Ukraine. Pop-Eleches noted many of the similarities and differences between the events in Ukraine and those in Transnistria, the secessionist region of Moldova. Yudina analyzed trends in Putin's popularity in Russia over the course of events in Ukraine. And Robertson discussed how Russia's "creative" class has reacted to the events in Ukraine.

Following their presentations, the speakers answered questions from the audience, which covered issues ranging from the role of the West in the conflict to the everyday experiences of Ukrainian citizens living through the conflict. The event attracted a wide audience of students, faculty, and other community members interested in the ongoing conflict.

The event was the latest attempt by CSEEEES to remain current on developments in Ukraine. CSEEEES organized a roundtable on the emerging crisis on March 4, and also presented a talk by Eugene Fishel, U.S. Department of State, on March 21. Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Robertson participated on a panel on the "Crisis in Ukraine" on September 19 as part of the conference "A Global Perspective on the European Crisis," hosted by the UNC Institute for Arts and Humanities and the Center for European Studies.



From left to right: Maria Popova, Grigor Pop-Eleches, Robert Jenkins, Anna Yudina, and Milada Vachudova

Collections Corner

Davis Library has purchased the electronic archive of the Russian newspaper *Культура* (formerly *Советская культура*), covering the period from its inception as *Рабочий и искусство* in 1929 to 2013. The official voice of the Communist Party on all cultural affairs, *Советская культура* is a major primary source for scholars of the Soviet Union. The newspaper's recent makeover will be of interest to anyone investigating government-media relations in Russia today.

The library is also in the process of acquiring the microfilm of *Красная Татария*, the official government newspaper published in Kazan' (Tatarstan) during the early Soviet period. UNC is the only U.S. library with holdings of this scarce primary source.

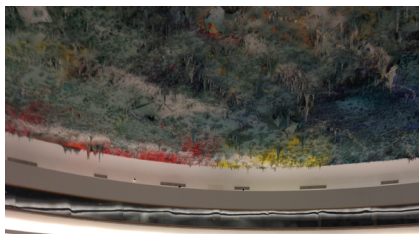
The library collection has recently received several valuable gifts:

Naum Korzhavin's private library. Korzhavin was a prominent Russian poet and dissident.

The Koudelka Czech gift, the private library of Jan F. Koudelka, which includes a variety of Czech publications

A number of Hungarian materials from Peter Sherwood, Laszlo Birinyi, Sr. Distinguished Professor of Hungarian Language and Culture (retired) and Eniko Basa, Executive Director of the American Hungarian Educators Association.

Internship with the United Nations Environment Programme in Geneva



Aya Ovezova, a second year MA RUES student and Rotary World Peace Fellow, shares her internship experience with the United Nations in Geneva.



Aya Ovezova at a lecture given by Kofi Annan on his latest book

Study of governing and managing water resources for conflict prevention in the territory of a particular country and its neighboring states brought me to the Rotary Peace Fellowship and Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH).

The area of peace studies plays a significant role in the developing world today. In this respect, UNC-CH provides valuable academic as well as practical knowledge and skills. As part of the Rotary World Peace Fellowship, students undertake Applied Fieldwork Experience in the field of their research interest with international organizations around the world. This engages students in intensive work to develop professional skills and critical thinking in the development field.

I spent my summer in Geneva, Switzerland, interning with the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI). The organization is a unique global partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector, working closely

with financial institutions like banks, insurers and investors to raise awareness and promote corporate governance of environmental and ecological risks for sustainable development globally. Innovative approaches and collaboration initiatives of the public and private sectors are essential steps towards addressing environmental, social and governance issues in sustainable development.

I worked with the European Task Force Coordinator on country projects, specifically, Russia and Turkey, focusing on national policies, action plans, and initiatives of the governments as well as private sectors. Based on the data, I assisted my supervisor to draft the country specific strategies for future cooperation and collaboration with these countries. This three month internship was a rewarding experience for me for several reasons. UNEP FI is working on the specific area and region of my research interest – water issues; the Eastern European region. I was able to use my Russian and Turkish language skills as well as program management experience. Moreover, this summer experience advanced my understanding about the latest developments in green economy, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility. By the end of my internship, I started thinking of the best ways of incorporating Western sustainable development strategies to Central Asian region. This is a long-term work that will help local communities to understand the importance of rationale use of water resources in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to cite UNEP FI's motto "Changing Finance, Financing Change". Financing matters when it comes to environmental impacts today.

BY AYA OVEZOVA (MA RUES 2015)

Summer 2014 FLAS Awardees

This summer, CSEEEES awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships to 12 students: Lisl Hampton, Phillip Kiffer, Karina McCorkle, Allison Somogyi, Mary Elizabeth Walters, James Brennan, Brendan Daniel, Marya Fancey, Colin Kantor, Rosavera Kneller, Taylor Cayce, and Gregory Zorko. Students travelled around the world to study foreign languages. For example, Philip Kiffer (MA RUES 2015) travelled to St. Petersburg, Russia. Brendan Daniel (MA RUES 2015) attended the School of Polish Language and Culture at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin for six weeks. Students also participated in intensive language programs in the United States. Lisl Hampton (PhD candidate, Anthropology) used FLAS funding to travel to Bloomington, Indiana, to study Polish in preparation for field research for her dissertation project in Krakow, Poland.

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