

connections



THE UNIVERSITY
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Diane Koenker Discusses Worker Culture and the Crisis of Class Identity at the End of the Soviet 1920s



Professor Diane Koenker, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/photo Dr. Robert Jenkins

By Amanda Jacobson

On March 25, Diane Koenker, Professor of Russian and East European History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, lectured on the crisis of class identity among Soviet workers at the end of the 1920s. Her lecture was drawn from a chapter of her forthcoming book, which analyzes class identity through the lens of one particular group of workers, the printers. More specifically, she wants to gauge how workers define class and how those same workers self-identify.

Professor Koenker began her lecture with an overview of worker and class identity in the early

part of the 1920s. She described what she called the “total proletarian” or the ideal type of worker, which each individual worker was asked to emulate after the revolution. She also discussed the different areas she researched to determine how workers viewed themselves. The first category was leisure. She talked of the degeneration of the workers’ clubs over time, and how more people were prone to taking individual vacations over state organized group leisure activities. The next category was “hooliganism,” which she described as hypocritical and confusing for the workers because on the one hand they condemned hooliganism as a concept, while on the other hand, the activities of hooligans (drinking and swearing) were some of the main activities that brought workers together as a unit.

Koenker also discussed how women found it difficult to relate to the

proscribed working class identity because of the “proletarian double standard,” in which women were liberated through socialism. In reality, however, most

worker discourse was misogynistic and men viewed their female counterparts in the work force as inferior.

RUES Students Present MA Theses at Piedmont Colloquium



2004 RUES MA Graduates Amanda Jacobson, Scott Griffin, John Surface, Jeffrey Long, and Will Bettman and program director Dr. Robert Jenkins/photo Jeremy Pinkham

On April 16, the graduating class of MA students in Russian and East European Studies at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies presented their theses at the Piedmont Slavic Colloquium. Topics ranged from Polish foreign policy to Yugoslav federalism to Russian youth and Russian forestry.

John Surface’s the-

sis, “The Pursuit of Sovereignty: Explaining Polish Foreign Policy 1989-2004,” explored the nature of Polish foreign policy since the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. The recipient of a Presidential Management Fellowship, John is currently interviewing for work as an analyst of international affairs

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Announcements

Madeline Levine (Slavic Languages & Literatures, UNC-CH) is this year's recipient of the Cornelia Phillips Spencer Bell Award, which recognizes a woman who has made outstanding recent contributions to the university.

Professor Emeritus Vasa Mihailovich (Slavic Languages & Literatures, UNC-CH) was awarded this spring the prestigious Vuk Karadzic Award for lifelong achievements in presenting Serbian culture abroad. His book, *A Lamb and a Wolf: Fables for Small and Grown-up Children*, has been published in Serbian in Belgrade.

Donald J. Raleigh (History, UNC-CH) served as an associate editor of a new, 4-volume *Encyclopedia of Russian History* published in 2004 by Macmillan. The work received the American Library Association Award for Outstanding Reference Source, 2004.

Milada Anna Vachudova (Political Science, UNC-CH) has received a Research Scholar grant from the East European Studies program (EES) of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. She will be in residence in June and July 2004, and then again in the summer of 2005. **Professor Vachudova** has also received a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Grant for 2004-2005 to conduct research in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro,

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Systems in Conflict: Rouhier-Willoughby Examines Post-Soviet Life Cycle Rituals



Professor Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby, University of Kentucky/photo J. Long

On March 15, Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby, Associate Professor of Russian and Eastern Studies and Linguistics at the University of Kentucky discussed life cycle rituals in post-Soviet society at a talk sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Lit-

eratures, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, and the Slavic and East European Language Resource Center.

According to Professor Rouhier-Willoughby life cycle rituals and ceremonies establish cultural membership in a particular society and shape personal identity. The purpose of her research was to understand what happens to these rituals when a society is undergoing change. Which ritual practices are retained and why?

During her talk, she traced three major life-cycle rituals--births, marriages and funerals--in Russian culture

from the pre-Soviet period through the Soviet era up to the present in an effort to understand which rituals have remained intact.

Professor Rouhier-Willoughby concluded that cultural practices that played critical roles in pre-Soviet and Soviet society, for example preventing a father from seeing his child for several days after the child is born or certain mourning rituals, were such important parts of society that they have remained intact through the Soviet era and into post-Soviet period despite attacks waged by the Soviet regime to dislodge them.

Ecologist Discusses Siberian Biogeography, Exchange Program

On April 12, CSEEEES, the Carolina Environmental Program, and the UNC Study Abroad Program hosted a talk on the biogeography of Western Siberia by Dr. Pavel Barsukov, Director of the Siberian Institute for Ecological Initiatives and a leading research scientist with the Institute of Soil and Agrochemistry in Novosibirsk, Russia.

Dr. Barsukov provided an overview of Siberian geography and ecology before moving on to speak about the geology of Western Siberian in particular. He stressed the importance of preserving Siberia's natural wealth for future generations. He believes that developing a culture of ecology among young people and attracting domestic and foreign attention to Siberian nature will play a critical role in

this process.

Finally, Dr. Barsukov spoke about an upcoming exchange program that he is planning in conjunction with the Carolina Environmental Program. The program would potentially provide UNC students with the op-

portunity to visit Siberia and conduct field research during the summer of 2005. For more information about this upcoming exchange program, contact Greg Gangi of the Carolina Environmental Program at ggangi@email.unc.edu.

Slavic Department Hosts Spektakl'

On April 6, the students and instructors of the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures presented the annual Spektakl', a foreign language extravaganza that featured skits, songs, stories, poetry, and videos in Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Russian and Serbian and Croatian. Highlights from this year's Spektakl' included Hungarian songs and poetry sung and recited by the students of Hungarian 102, a

Serbian/Croatian adaptation of the Beatles' 1968 animated film *Yellow Submarine*, little known animal facts presented by the students of Polish 104, and a Russian parody of the television show *Iron Chef*. In addition, Diane Keaton, a senior in Slavic Languages and Literatures, received the Paul Debreczeny Prize, awarded to the department's graduating senior whose work in the department has been judged outstanding.

CSEEEES, Duke Center for International Development Host Russian University Administrators

From May 9-19, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies and the Duke Center for International Development (DCID) co-hosted eight Vice Rectors and Department Heads from the social sciences of several of the most prestigious Russian higher education institutions in Moscow. The university officials visited under the auspices of a program organized by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS and the Russian Federation's National Training Foundation. The program is funded by the World Bank.

During the course of the program, the participants spent eight days at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke, where they met with administrators and faculty members in order to gain an understanding of how U.S. universities work. CSEEEES and DCID arranged a variety of meetings to expose these university officials to issues of curriculum review and program development, instructional support services, research activities, grant management, alumni services, and other facets of institutional operation.

Participants included officials from the Russian

Academy of Sciences and the National Training Foundation as well as university representatives from the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, the New Economic School, the State University Higher School of Economics, and the Russian People's Friendship University.

Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Major Jeffrey Jennette (RUES MA, 2003) is in Tajikistan working on military exchange programs with the Tajik military. "I've been here just a few days, but life is interesting. My research in Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism is being put to good use," says Jeff.

Congratulations to **Will Bettman** (RUES MA, 2004) and his wife Aly on the birth of their son Elijah on March 2, 2004!

Transnistrian Conflict: History, Results, Perspectives



Professor Diana Dumitru, State Pedagogical University "Ion Creanga"/photo Dr. Robert Jenkins

On April 28, Dr. Diana Dumitru, Professor in the Department of History and Ethnopedagogy at the State Pedagogical University "Ion Creanga" in Chisinau, Moldova, gave a talk, "Transnistrian Conflict: History, Results, Perspectives," sponsored by CSEEEES and held in conjunction with events at the annual International & Area Studies Open House. Dr. Dumitru was a visiting scholar

at CSEEEES during the 2003-04 year, and a fellow with American Council's Junior Faculty Development Program. Her talk focused on the history of the Transnistria region and the nature of the current conflict between Transnistria and the Republic of Moldova. She discussed developments in the conflict over the last ten years, and closed her talk by touching upon the challenges that presently face the region, asserting that the Transnistria problem is one that few in the international community are willing to address.

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at a number of agencies in Washington, DC.

In his thesis, "Polish Policies Toward the Ukraine and Belarus 1989-2003, Scott Griffin also examined the nature of Polish foreign policy, directing his attention toward the Ukraine and Belarus. Scott is currently seeking employment in Washington, DC in a foreign policy related area.

Amanda Jacobson's thesis, "Inherent Contradictions: The Failed Case of Socialist Federalism in Yugoslavia, explored the problematic nature of federalism in Tito's Yugoslavia. After graduation, Amanda will move to Washington, DC to work as a Balkans analyst with the Central Intelligence

Agency.

In "Putin Youth?: The Moving Together Youth Movement in Post-Soviet Russia," Jeffrey Long traced the history of the recent Putin youth movement Moving Together. Jeffrey plans to use an NSEP/NFLI fellowship to study Russian in St. Petersburg this fall.

In his thesis, "Institutional Persistence, Organizational Rupture and Other Good News for Robber Barons: Russian Forestry Since the Collapse of the Soviet Union," Will Bettman examined the state of forestry in the Russian Federation since 1991. After graduation, Will hopes to work with an environmental organization that deals with Russia.

Introducing *connections*: A Letter from the Director

With this issue of the newsletter of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, we are inaugurating a new name, *connections*, which we think more accurately reflects the nature of our mission. We have chosen this name to capture the essence of what the Center is about, making linkages between the students and faculty of UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke and the public in our local communities, across the nation, and overseas. Over the past five years, the connections at CSEEEES have multiplied dramatically. Our new name seeks to mark this growth.

The introduction of the MA in Russian and East European Studies in 1999 has been a tremendous boost for developing connections. As of this May, we have graduated twenty-four students with MA degrees. Our alumni are working for the U.S.

Army, the U.S. government, democratic development contractors, and NGOs. Several in this year's graduating cohort have already received offers from U.S. security agencies and/or are talking to other government agencies. CSEEEES connections in DC are deepening, opening up future possibilities for cooperation, including new learning opportunities for students, faculty, alumni, and the public.

The MA program has also worked to strengthen connections on the UNC-Chapel Hill Campus and linkages between UNC-CH and Duke. MA students have taken courses in many departments on both campuses and they have drawn a diverse group of faculty to serve on their theses. These multidisciplinary MA theses have led to the creation of new connections among faculty that

would not likely be made otherwise.

Of course the MA program is not the only reason that connections have increased. The CSEEEES faculty communities have grown through the addition of several new positions. Our recent faculty additions have brought us a rich source of new contacts and resources. We also link nearly sixty Center Fellows from universities and community colleges throughout the state and region. CSEEEES participates in a number of post-doctoral programs, most recently the Junior Faculty Development Program run by American Councils, which brings a rich resource of young faculty from Russia and South East Europe. We continue to pursue our ongoing cooperation with the Institute of Contemporary History at the Czech Academy of Sciences,

Jerome of Prague College, and the UNC-CH Honors Program. At the same time we are working with Study Abroad and colleagues throughout UNC-CH to develop new interdisciplinary study abroad programs in Russia. CSEEEES sees its mission to be precisely the facilitation of such connections.

In the coming years, CSEEEES will build upon these accomplishments and continue to push ahead in its facilitating and connecting role. We are committed to enhancing the teaching, research, and engagement activities at UNC-CH and Duke and will be working to make the necessary connections to achieve these goals. We will keep you informed about these activities and report on new ones through *connections*.

Sincerely, Robert Jenkins

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