



Ukrainian Studies Newsletter

At the University of Washington



Issue 3, June 2012

Why is the Ukrainian Studies Endowment important?

The Pacific Northwest has not only welcomed many thousands of Ukrainian immigrants during the past two decades, but has positioned itself to “do business” with their homeland. Establishing a Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the Northwest’s leading center for the study of the Slavic countries and their neighbors is a way of ensuring that knowledge about the cultural, scientific, industrial and agricultural resources of Ukraine, and the achievements of its diaspora, will be available to the people of our region. An endowed Chair will secure a place for Ukrainian Studies in the University’s curriculum, regardless of State and University funding decisions, making this endowed position unique in the western United States. The knowledge made available through the Chair of Ukrainian Studies will be shared with the public at large through lectures, forums, and projects which serve a variety of communities. Although this position will be important as a means of preserving the Ukrainian heritage in America, its larger goal will be the education of Americans who have little opportunity to learn about Ukraine and its place in the world, and the facilitation of commercial, political and cultural contacts between the United States and Ukraine.

To find out more about how you can help please contact Prof. James West of the UW Slavic Dept. (jdwest@uw.edu; tel. 206-543-4829) or Dr. Maria Rewakowicz of the UW Slavic Dept. (mrewakow@uw.edu; tel. 206-985-9415). You can also contact the UW Slavic Department at 206-543-6848 or visit the Endowment web page at: <http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/endow/ukrainian-eng/>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Anya Hnateyko, our Newsletter Editor, for volunteering her time and skills to make this issue available to you.

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Ukrainian Fulbright Scholars Visiting the University of Washington



During the Winter Quarter of the 2011-12 academic year the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee hosted guest lectures by two scholars from Ukraine, Dr. Viktoriya Sukovata and Dr. Valentyna Kharkhun.

Dr. Sukovata is a Professor of Philosophical Anthropology at Kharkiv National Karazin University and visiting Fulbright scholar at the University of California at Berkeley. She has published extensively in the area of Gender and Queer Studies, including over 120 scholarly articles and a monograph Face of Other. Body of "Other" in Cultural Anthropology (2009). On February 23, 2012, Dr. Sukovata presented a comparative study of the queer images and ideas of sexuality in the evolution of Soviet and post-Soviet popular consciousness, from the classic Russian literature of the 19th century through the Soviet and post-Soviet cinema of the 20th and 21st centuries. Her lecture, titled "Queer Sexuality in the Images of Soviet and Post-Soviet Popular Culture", evaluated the influence of Soviet ideology on queer images in popular culture, and defined the place of constructions of queer sexuality in the Soviet "collective imagination." She traced the evolution of these constructions in post-Soviet cultural discourses, considering the case of Ukrainian artist and performer Andriy Danylko, whose image is the combination of a postmodern aesthetics of queerness and folk Ukrainian traditions of burlesque.

Dr. Kharkhun is a Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Mykola Hohol State University of Nizhyn and currently Fulbright Scholar at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University. She has authored two monographs, including Socialist Realist Canon: Genesis, Evolution, Modification (2009), four textbooks and over seventy scholarly articles. Her lecture at the UW on February 28, 2012, "Museumification of the Soviet Past, or Communism in Museum", focused on the role of museums in the formation of the memory about communism and explored various types of Soviet past museumification. She argued that with respect to the identification projects carried out in different European countries, the specificity of communism reception is determined by strategies ranging from dethronement and condemnation to indirect defense of Soviet communism. Communist past experiences are perceived through the prism of tragedy, irony, caricature and/or humor, and museums constitute an important base where these various approaches are tested and offered to the public.



Prof. Timothy Snyder's Lecture on May 23, 2012



Timothy Snyder is the Bird White Housum Professor of History at Yale University, specializing in the political history of Central and Eastern Europe. His lecture, organized by the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee, was based on his award-winning book: **Bloodlands: Between Hitler and Stalin** (2010). This book has been widely reviewed and already translated into more than twenty languages. The focus of Prof. Snyder's talk was the deliberate mass murder of 14 million civilians in the lands between Germany and Russia in the years when Hitler and Stalin were both in power. He discussed Soviet and Nazi killing policies, from the famine in Ukraine through the Holocaust of Jews, with special emphasis on understanding why the lands between Hitler and Stalin were the most dangerous place on earth. Prof. Snyder began his lecture by telling the story of three people from three different ethnic groups, facing imminent death: a Ukrainian peasant in the midst of the 1933 famine in Ukraine, a Polish officer—prisoner of war, and a Jewish woman, all of whom left a written trace which allowed him to reconstruct their fates many years later. He finished his lecture by revealing their names. The abstraction of numbers of people killed in the 'Bloodlands' does not tell the entire story but when the numbers are replaced by concrete life stories the impact becomes that much more pronounced.

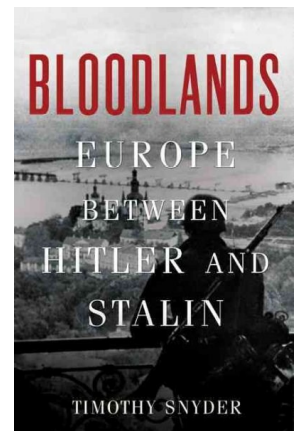
Here are two excerpts from recent reviews:

"In the hands of a less accomplished scholar there would be a danger that a treatment such as this could slip into yet another history of the twentieth century's two monsters-in-chief. That does not happen. Snyder cleverly links Stalin's murders to those of Hitler; he shows the similarities and the differences in the way the two systems imposed their lethal wills; and he argues strongly that one system of mass murder cannot be understood without reference to the other."

Richard Crampton
Journal of Baltic Studies
Vol. 43, Issue 1, 2012

"Bold and original, *Bloodlands* represents an effort to break through barriers of interpretation and discipline and will influence scholarly discussion for years to come. [...] By consulting a massive array of sources and giving victims a voice, Snyder avoids charges of bias. [...] For the author, the Soviet system was most lethal when the USSR was not at war, whereas the Nazis committed their atrocities mostly during the war. [...] *Bloodlands* should be required reading for all students of modern European history."

Dónal O'Sullivan
The Historian
Vol. 74, no. 1, 2012



Ukrainian Studies News from the UW Library, Seattle

Readers of the Ukrainian Studies Newsletter will be interested in browsing the UW Libraries' most recent acquisitions of Ukrainian materials, listed at <http://guides.lib.washington.edu/newbooks-reecas> (select the tab marked "May 2012").

UW's new Ukrainian acquisitions list for May 2012 numbers nearly 100 titles, including recently published prose works by many of Ukraine's most accomplished younger writers, such as Iurii Andrukhovych, Liuko Dashvar, Oleksandr Irvanets, Iurii Izdryk, Andrii Kokotiukha, Lina Kostenko, Mariia Matios, Natalka Sniadanko and Serhii Zhadan. New work by prominent Ukrainian literary historians Vira Aheieva, Nila Zborovs'ka, Mykola Riabchuk is also featured. Their work and that of other outstanding Ukrainian authors, historians, and political scientists that comprise the May 2012 list were once again selected from among many hundreds of others appearing in recent publishers' catalogs with the expert advice of UW affiliate faculty member Dr. Maria Rewakowicz. This new material, as well as many thousands of other items on Ukrainian topics, is available for checkout to individuals with a valid UW Library card, or may be freely used within Suzzallo Library by any visitor, whether a cardholder or not.

With over 24,040 new book titles published in 2008 alone, Ukraine is the third most productive publishing region in Eastern Europe, after Russia (with 123,336 titles that same year) and Poland (with 28,248 titles). Few libraries in North America have done a good job of collecting this wealth of material. On the East Coast, Harvard has remained far and away in the lead in developing strong Ukrainian holdings, while Yale, Columbia, and the University of Toronto have maintained adequate collections. On the West Coast, only Stanford University has built its post-1991 Ukrainian collection at an intensity approaching Harvard's. Within the 37-member Orbis-Cascade Alliance of college and university libraries in Washington State and Oregon, UW's Ukrainian collection stands alone.

For a number of reasons, the UW Libraries' Ukrainian acquisitions since 1991 have been representative, at best – first of all because our library operates on a far more modest budget than Columbia or Toronto, let alone Stanford and Harvard. Secondly, it was not until Prof. Laada Bilaniuk's arrival some years ago, followed by Dr. Rewakowicz, that we had ongoing faculty in Ukrainian linguistics and literature to support, and even today UW still lacks faculty and courses devoted to Ukrainian history or current affairs.

We ask prospective supporters of the Ukrainian Studies Endowment to keep the library in mind when supporting UW's program. A well-stocked library of books and journals in Ukrainian literature, linguistics, folklore, art, history, and contemporary affairs remains the primary research tool of any Ukrainianist in the humanities or social sciences. From a budgetary perspective, whether these materials are paper-based or online makes little difference – the best ones cost money, whatever their format. We will be able to build a strong base for Ukrainian studies within the UW Library only in collaboration with the UW USE and other members of the local and wider communities, and we look forward to working with you toward that goal.

For more information about obtaining a UW Library visitor's borrowing card see <http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/borrow/visitors>, and for more information about the UW's Ukrainian and Slavic collections, contact mbiggins@uw.edu.

Michael Biggins
Slavic, Baltic, and East European studies librarian
University of Washington

The Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee would like to express many thanks to Roman Begej for his gift to the Endowment Fund, and to Michael and Susan Peskura for their gifts both to the Endowment Fund as well as to the Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the UW USE, here is how you can do it:

Donate online by going to the Slavic Department website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>

Click on "Make a Gift". You will then be directed to various Slavic Dept. Funds, including two Ukrainian Studies Funds. You can select either **Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies**, created to endow a Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the UW, or **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund**, which supports ongoing activities in Ukrainian Studies such as a lectures series or language and culture instruction.

If you prefer, you can mail your contribution (payable to the University of Washington) to:

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
M253 Smith Hall, Box 353580
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3580

Please indicate on your check to which Fund you would like to donate, Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies, or Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund.

Pursuant to RCW 19.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the Secretary of State, State of Washington. For information, call the Office of the Secretary of State, 1-800-4483.