

# SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES LETTER

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SPRING 2018**

At our annual business meeting last November in Chicago, members of the Society and the Executive Council proposed a number of projects for the Society to focus on during the year ahead, and in a subsequent poll of the Executive Council we settled on the following five top priorities for 2018:

1. Make improvements to our journal, *Slovene Studies*, designed to enhance its utility and attractiveness, both to prospective contributors of articles and to our general readership;
2. Upgrade the Society's web page to be in conformity with current design and accessibility standards;
3. Establish criteria and an application process for awarding travel stipends to graduate students and other junior members of the Society whose Slovene studies-related research has been accepted for presentation at a major regional, national or international conference;
4. Expand and diversify the Society's newsletter; and
5. Conduct a membership drive based on a census of current and recent undergraduate and graduate students studying Slovene at

North American colleges, as well as of Slovene post-doctoral researchers and other professionals employed at universities and in private industry here.

We on the Board want to extend thanks to our colleague Dr. Oto Luthar, Director of the Scientific Research Institute of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), for providing both impetus and encouragement to enhance our journal, and to Mr. Aleš Pogačnik, editor-in-chief of ZRC Publishers in Ljubljana, for invaluable advice on implementation. By the time of our next annual meeting this November in Boston we plan to report on progress in each of these five areas.

For background on each of these planned initiatives, I recommend reading the minutes of our November 2017 business meeting, ably and extensively captured by our secretary, Kristina Reardon, and reproduced as the last item of this issue of the newsletter.

Are you missing an important priority in this year's short list of five? Please let us know about it by contacting me at [mbiggins@uw.edu](mailto:mbiggins@uw.edu), and we'll add it to our agenda for discussion and possible implementation in 2019

Michael Biggins  
President, 2017–2020

## CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY

The Society will begin celebrating its forty-fifth anniversary this year on March 24 at Ohio State University (OSU). The Midwest Slavic Conference keynote address will be delivered by the SSS President Michael Biggins, on behalf of the OSU Slovene Research Initiative and the Society for Slovene Studies. The talk, titled *Canons Continually Recast: Claiming Space for the Genius of Europe's Borderlands*, will draw on examples from Slovenian literature and art to demonstrate the unrealized international potential of creative traditions that accidents of geography and language have obscured from wider appreciation and to argue that Slovenists and, by extension, East Europeanists have decades' worth of vital cultural recovery work yet to accomplish.

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**The ASEEEES 50<sup>th</sup> annual convention** will take place in Boston, MA: 6-9 DEC 2018. The schedule of meetings, of Slovene-themed panels as well as select Yugoslav- and Habsburg-themed panels of interest will be published in the Fall.

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## CALL FOR 2019 CONVENTION PAPERS

### Young Scholars Panel 2019

For the past two decades, the SSS has sponsored a panel featuring younger scholars in Slovene Studies. The sessions provide an opportunity for the Society to learn about new researchers in the field. If you are currently doing graduate work or have recently completed a graduate degree, and wish to prepare a paper for the 2019 Convention, which will take place in San Francisco from November 23-26 that year, please contact Executive Council member Dr. Gregor Kranjc at [gkranjc@brocku.ca](mailto:gkranjc@brocku.ca) by 15 December 2018.

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### Senior Scholars Panel 2019

A Seniors panel is planned for the SSS 2019 meeting in San Francisco. If you are reassessing an old topic or working on a new project, consider presenting your findings at a scholarly venue. All topics will be considered. Anyone interested in offering a paper should contact Carole Rogel ([rogel.1@osu.edu](mailto:rogel.1@osu.edu)) by December 15 2018.

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## FROM THE TREASURER

### Contributions to SSS Funds

#### Endowment Fund

Paul A. Barbarich                      Emil Martinsek

#### Printing Fund

Mary-Allen Johnson

#### New Members

Marijanca Ajša Vižintin, research fellow,  
ZRC SAZU, Slovenian Migration Institute

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## SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIZES

### Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize

The submission deadline for the \$1,000US 2018 Undergraduate Essay Prize is 30 September 2018. See the Society for Slovene Studies website.

### The SSS Rado L. Lenček Graduate Prize

The submission deadline for the 2018 Graduate Student Prize is 30 September 2018. The prize is \$1,000US. See the Society for Slovene Studies website.

### Other Scholarships Available

The Call for **ASEF Fellowships** in Slovenia is open: apply for a 10-week summer visit to a Slovenian university, research institution or a company in the area of your field of study. All expenses are covered. The deadline is May 1. Fellowship information as at [www.asef.net](http://www.asef.net).

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**Central European Initiative** in co-operation with the **Slovene Writers' Association** call for applications for the CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence within the Vilenica International Literary Festival. The fellowship is endowed with a cash award of EUR 5,000 for a three-month stay in any of the Central European Initiative Member States, selected by the candidate. The fellowship winner will be guest of the 33rd Vilenica International Literary Festival which will take place from 5 to 9 September 2018 at various locations in Slovenia. Information is at <https://www.drustvo-dsp.si/pisateljska-stipendija-sep-2018/>.

**SLOVENE STUDIES: JOURNAL OF THE SSS**

Timothy Pogačar, editor

Vol. 39 (2017) is being shipped in March. The volume is devoted to select works of the American scholar Dennison Rusinow (1930-2004). Vol. 40 (2018) is due in June. It will contain a variety of scholarly articles and a few special publications, including Mary Turvey's recollections of Frank J. Bartol. A short excerpt follows:

**FRANK J. BARTOL, Educator, Historian, and Raconteur, 1929–2015**, by Mary Turvey

On November 28, 2015 in the little settlement of Traunik, Michigan, located about 30 miles south of Marquette, the usually quiet old Slovenian community was filled with descendants of its early settlers, teachers, historians, students, friends and beloved family members who came to say farewell to Frank Bartol, a life long resident of Traunik. The setting was the Traunik Slovenian Hall which was built first as an Slovene National Benefit Society meeting place back in 1922, and in 1993 purchased to become a local meeting place for Slovenians of the region. Frank was at home in this hall, set on the land he loved. Choosing a “farewell” in accordance with early Slovenian immigrants, the funeral reception setting was of Frank resting in a cedar wooden casket he made...

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**MEMBER NEWS**

**Society at the University of Nottingham**

On Tuesday, 21st November 2017 the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Nottingham enjoyed an engaging visit from Slovene writer Mojca Kumerdej, who was in the UK to promote her latest novel, *The Harvest of Chronos*, out in English translation with Istros Books. The visit, organised by Slovene teacher Maja Rančigaj-Beneš and led by Translation Studies PhD student Olivia Hellewell, was well-attended by students and staff, as well as members of the wider community. Mojca spoke avidly about her latest work: an ambitious novel about politics, power and language set in 16<sup>th</sup> century in Hapsburg Heredity Lands. Students and staff were also joined by Metoda Mikuž

(Minister Plenipotentiary) in Špela Vrbnjak (Culture and Media Representative) from the Slovene Embassy. It was great to see so many people engaging with contemporary Slovene literature, and the Slovene lektorat at the University of Nottingham is looking forward to hosting further events in 2018.



Report by Olivia Hellewell, U of Nottingham

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**Raymond Miller's** translation of Jure Detela's verse collection *Moss & Silver* is going to be published soon. The pre-order announcement on the Ugly Duckling Presse is available as well as some individual poems in their vol. 10. <https://www.uglyducklingpresse.org/catalog/browse/item/?pubID=560>

\* \* \*

SSS member and journalism expert **Terry Anzur** has shared her blog, “Strangers in the Living Room: Exploring Slovenia and the World,” which includes links to summer 2017 television interviews in Slovenia in part on media affairs on Melania Trump. See:

<https://www.strangersinthelivingroom.com/7201/interview-on-tv-slovenia/>

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**UPCOMING EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

**Invitation to Contribute to Special Adamic Publication:** SSS Member Janja Žitnik has announced that the journal *Two Homelands/Dve domovini* is planning an English thematic section in an issue later this year on the American-Slovene writer Louis Adamic. The editors invite contacts from potential contributors willing to contribute articles for this section. The editors request that potential authors contact them and commit as soon as possible. The deadline is 30 May 2018. Please send name, academic degree and/or position (e.g., Ph.D., M.A. in history, research fellow, etc.), full postal address, e-mail

address, title of the article, and abstract (up to 700 characters with spaces) to [spela.kastelic@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:spela.kastelic@zrc-sazu.si). The probable deadline for submitting articles is **30 September, 2018**.

The **37<sup>th</sup> Obdobja Symposium** will take place on 14–16 November 2018, devoted to “Starejši mediji slovenske književnosti: Rokopisi in tiski.” <http://www.centerslo.si>

The **54<sup>th</sup> Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture** entitled *1918 in Slovene Language, Literature and Culture* will take place on 2-13 July 2018 in Ljubljana. Details and registration: <http://centerslo.si/en/seminar-sjlk/>.

The Centre for Slovene is also organizing its annual, now **37<sup>th</sup> Summer School of Slovene Language** with various courses for the period 2-27 July, 2–13 July or 16–27 July 2017. Scholarships available. <http://centerslo.si/tecaji-za-odrasle/sole/poletna-sola/>

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The **2018 ASEEEES 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** will take place in Boston, MA at Boston Marriott Copley Place, 6–9 December 2018.

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The **2019 ASEEEES 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention** will take place in San Francisco, CA at San Francisco Marriott Wardman, 23–26 November 2019.

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For more institutional & affiliate ASEEEES member news see [www.aseees.org/about/affiliate](http://www.aseees.org/about/affiliate)

The **Slovene Book Agency** publishes a quarterly English-language newsletter with links to comprehensive information on current literary events, a translation database, and more. Subscribe at <http://www.jakrs.si/en/subscribe-to-the-quarterly-newsletter/>

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## RECENT EVENTS

SSS President Michael Biggins gave the Slovene Studies Research Initiative Lecture at the Midwest Slavic Conference on 24 March 2018. The lecture was entitled “Canons Continually Recast: Claiming Space for the Genius of Europe’s Borderlands” ([abstract here](#)). [The Slovene Research Initiative](#) (SRI). The SRI was founded at Ohio State University (OSU) in the fall of 2013

through an endowment from the Research Center of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, as well as through contributions from the Society for Slovene Studies. The Midwest Slavic Conference is organized by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at OSU.

On 24 March, SSS Past President Carole Rogel hosted a dinner at OSU in honor of the SSS’s forty-fifth anniversary and its cooperation with the SRI.

## PHOTO CORNER



24 March dinner at the Midwest Slavic Conference: Carole Rogel and Michael Biggins, photo by Mary-Allen Johnson



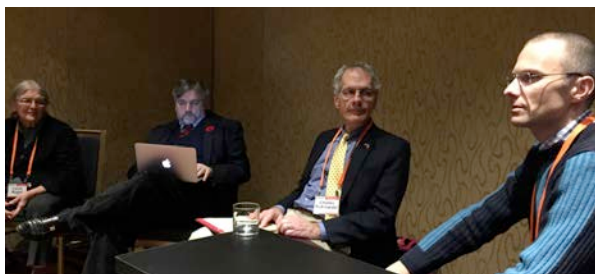
SSS Business Meeting, from left to right: Mary-Allen Johnson, Kaitlyn Tucker, Eileen Kunkler, Carole Rogel, Žarko Lazarović, Veronica Aplenc, Oto Luthar  
photo by Peter Rožič SJ



SSS Business Meeting, photo by Peter Rožič SJ



The SSS Young Scholars Panel at the 2018 ASEES Convention. Photo by Mary-Allen Johnson



Panel Slovenia and Beyond: Comparing Small State Foreign Policy in the EU: Carole Rogel, James Gow, Chuck Bukowski, Peter Rožič SJ.  
Photo by Mary-Allen Johnson

## SSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

### Officers

President: Michael Biggins (U of Washington)  
Secretary: Kristina Reardon (C of the Holy Cross)  
Treasurer: Timothy Pogacar (Bowling Green SU)  
Conference Program Coordinator: Veronica E. Aplenc (U of Pennsylvania)  
Editor, *Slovene Studies*: Timothy Pogacar  
Book Review Editor, *Slovene Studies*, Gregor Kranjc (Brock U)  
Editor, *Letter*: Peter Rožič SJ (Jesuit European Social Centre)

### Elected Members

Charles Bukowski (Bradley U)  
Gregor Kranjc (Brock U)  
Žarko Lazarević (Institute for Contemporary History, Ljubljana)

For further information regarding the Society for Slovene Studies, membership applications, journal subscriptions, and other details, contact: Kristina Reardon, secretary, Society for Slovene Studies, 148 Russell Street #3, Worcester, MA 01609, or at [kristina.reardon@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.reardon@gmail.com)

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