



THE SOCIETY  
for SLOVENE STUDIES

# LETTER

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## *President's Message...* **INVASION OF UKRAINE ALL TOO FAMILIAR**

**For many of us in the Society**, Russia's invasion of Ukraine this February surfaced anxieties uncannily akin to those we experienced thirty-one years ago, when the Yugoslav National Army launched its military campaign to prevent Slovenia and Croatia from seceding from Yugoslavia, thus instantly putting family, relatives, friends, colleagues and beloved places of many of us at risk. Although the acute threat to Slovenia passed in less than two weeks, the sense of dread went on for four years, with the Yugoslav and Serbian armies waging a seemingly endless war of terror against Bosnia and Croatia while an apparently helpless world looked on.

The deliberate agency of amoral political leaders in unleashing and inflaming the Yugoslav Wars in order to prolong and advance their careers should not be underestimated. (Something similar can be said about the U.S. invasion of Iraq some ten years later.) But Milošević, Karadžić and Tuđman were mere bargain basement versions of Vladimir Putin, who has murdered his critics, seized control of the Russian media sphere, demonized Ukraine and promulgated a regime of enforced Newspeak at home to an extent that would shame his Balkan predecessors, all while he sits at the apex of a vast kleptocracy that has brought him a personal fortune estimated at \$200 billion. All of them, but especially Putin, would have fascinated Vladimir Bartol (1903-1967), the author of *Alamut* (1938), the best-selling Slovenian novel of all time, had he lived so long.

*Alamut* was Bartol's attempt, in fictional form, to delve into the psyches and discover the true motivations of the ostensibly ideologically-driven despots whom he watched emerge as a new European and worldwide phenomenon from 1922 on, when Mussolini and his Fascist Party seized control of Italy, including Bartol's hometown of Trieste and the surrounding Adriatic Littoral. The twenty-six short stories that went into Bartol's first published book, *Al Araf* (1935), were essentially studies and sketches that he wrote in the process of working on *Alamut*, in order to explore how and why certain individuals seem driven to assert their will over others. Ultimately, the stories of *Al Araf* and the Tolkienesque epic of *Alamut* point not to some overpowering religious or ideological conviction or a fanatical belief in the nation as the driving force of tyrants, although these can serve them as tools for mobilizing the masses behind them. Instead - and not surprisingly, considering Bartol's early fascination with psychoanalysis - he points to some highly personal humiliation and injury suffered early in life which the despot suppresses at all costs, but which then metastasizes into a profound sense of grievance against persons, groups, the whole world itself, that leads him to deal out new and vastly graver injury to others.

Another great Slovene writer, just ten years younger than Bartol and, like him, from Trieste, who also spent much of his career as a writer reflecting on the destruction wrought by Europe's twentieth-century dictatorships, is Boris Pahor (b. 1913), who just last month died in

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## President's Message...

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Trieste at the age of 108. Pahor's best-known book worldwide, *Necropolis* (1967), is his memoir of survival as a political prisoner in Nazi concentration camps Dachau, Natzweiler, Bergen Belsen and others. Considered by some to be, alongside Imre Kertész's *Fateless* and Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz*, one of the greatest literary accounts of survival in the Holocaust, *Necropolis* conjures up a veritable United Nations of prisoners from every conceivable corner of Europe, even as the author's occasional encounters with fellow Slovene prisoners from the Adriatic Littoral evoke poetic flashbacks to his own youthful haunts. A high school teacher in Trieste for two decades, throughout his life Pahor put great hope and invested much of his personal time in talking to successive generations of young people in schools throughout Slovenia and the Julian March about the fatal mistakes of the past, in the interests of building a peaceful Europe and world. The guarantee of full civil rights that European Union law brought to Slovenes, Friulians and other ethnic minorities in Italy's Julian March, as well as to precarious minority communities throughout the EU's new member states in the 2000s, was the culmination of Pahor's lifetime aspirations. Although a gifted and prolific novelist and essayist, aside from *Necropolis*, Pahor largely remains to be translated and discovered in the English-speaking world.

The present Russian leader's recent dismissal of Ukrainian as a separate language and ethnic identity distinct from Russian rank as antiquated and self-serving as Mussolini's ban a century ago on being Slovene in Fascist Italy. Both Pahor and Bartol, like so many other great Slovenian creatives, were at one and the same time cultural cosmopolitans and local patriots. Long after Ukraine has secured its sovereignty and today's despots have been consigned to history's dustbin, the clear-sighted work of Bartol, Pahor and other great Slovenian writers and artists, wrought from contemplating the worst hardships of their times and transforming that into gold, will stand, to paraphrase Bartol, as monuments to the values of friendship, love, creativity and the search for truth. ■

**Michael Biggins, President**

Society for Slovene Studies | Spring 2022

# Celebrating the Society's Golden Anniversary

**2023 will see the Society for Slovene Studies turn a half century old**, and the Executive Council is busily making plans to celebrate this major milestone widely in the course of the year in conjunction with related events throughout North America - at the Midwest Slavic Association's annual conference in Columbus in April, at the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Northwest (REECAS Northwest) Conference in Seattle in May, and at the annual national conference of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies in Philadelphia from November 30 to December 3, 2023. Planned events include Slovene choral and other musical performances, productions in English of a major Slovenian play or two, dramatic readings of old and new classics of Slovenian poetry, film showings, public talks by distinguished experts - and that's just a start. Look for a more detailed line-up of events in our fall 2022 newsletter.

## — FROM THE — TREASURER

Members will receive their annual dues notices in July. It is possible to pay by check in U.S. funds or on the Society for Slovene Studies website ([slovenestudies.com](http://slovenestudies.com)) via PayPal. A few members prefer to pay by bank wire. Please contact the treasurer if this is your choice; wire fees are very high. The 2021 and 2022 financial statements are also being mailed. Contributions to SSS funds since November 2021 will be included in the fall 2022 newsletter

## — IN MEMORIAM —

Deceased members of the Society for Slovene Studies are:

**Francoise Hocevar**  
**Irene Portis-Winner**  
**Gerald Stone**

## NEW BOOK-LENGTH TRANSLATIONS OF SLOVENIAN LITERATURE INTO ENGLISH

- ***And Love Itself*** - Drago Jančar (Dalkey Archive Press, 2022), trans. David Limon.
- ***Slow Sailing*** - Uroš Zupan (Litterae Slovenicae, 2022), trans. Michael Biggins.
- ***The Doors of No Return: Fragments of an Epic*** - Boris A. Novak (Goga, 2022), trans. the author and Michael Biggins.
- ***My Kingdom Is Dying*** - Evald Flisar (SAMPARK Publishing House, 2021), trans. David Limon.
- ***Little Horns and the Golden Heart*** - Uroš Grilc, (Škratelj, 2021), trans. Urška Charney.
- ***The Treasure of the Pokljuka Dwarves*** - Žiga Gombač (Škratelj, 2021), trans. Urška Charney.

*If you or a scholar you know has recently translated work into English, please write Kristina.reardon@gmail.com for inclusion on the next list.*



# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

## CYNTHIA HERBERT-BRUSCHI ADAMS, PH.D.

Cynthia is a Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut and a retired psychologist. Her mother-in-law from Bled inspired her to research and write *The Red Toque: Love and Loss in the Time of Tito* (Strega Press, 2022), which is a work of historical fiction that follows her family through WWII. She did research with her husband, Roger Andrew Adams, in Slovenia as well as through literature and interviews with family members. She even purchased *A King's Heritage* by Peter II of Yugoslavia.

## ROGER ADAMS

Adams' connection to Slovenia is through his late mother, Rositha Victoria (Por) Adams, who grew up in Bled before World War II. In researching her family history, his wife, Cynthia Herbert-Bruschi Adams, became interested in writing a novel, which was recently published, based on the family's experiences: *The Red Toque: Love and Loss in the Time of Tito* (Strega Press, 2022). He states that it has been an important experience to be made aware of the history of that period.

## AARON CARPENTER

Aaron is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Germanics at the University of Washington. He is teaching composition in the English Department. His area of interest includes translation studies, post-colonial theory, minority and migrant literature, and trauma studies. He is currently working on his dissertation tentatively called "Rajžaliteratur – Examining the Use of Fremdwörter by South-Slavic authors writing in German." The first two chapters examine how Carinthian Slovenian writer Maja Haderlap uses Slovenian and historically-loaded words in her otherwise German-language texts to narrate her community's experiences during World War II, which had long been ignored in Austria.

## PAULI NOVAK

Novak has lived in Dillon, Colorado for the past 12 years, though she is originally from northern Minnesota where her grandfather (from Ig) immigrated during WWII. Her grandmother's family is from Mala Slevica and immigrated earlier. She is currently finishing her MBA. She loves to travel, enjoy the outdoors and spend time with family. She has spent quite a bit of time with relatives in Slovenia (Kamnik and Bohinj) and looks forward to learning more of the language so they can communicate more easily. She is very interested in my family history and culture in Slovenia.

## OTHER NEW MEMBERS

**Christopher Kromm, Ella Kromm, and Doris A. Slavinec.**

If you are a new member (since 2021) and have not yet submitted a profile, please feel free to reach out to Kristina Reardon at [kristina.reardon@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.reardon@gmail.com) to do so, and we will run it in the next newsletter.

## MEMBER UPDATES



**Cynthia Herbert-Bruschi Adams, Ph.D.**, is a Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut and a retired psychologist. Her mother-in-law from Bled inspired her to research and write *The Red Toque: Love and Loss in the Time of Tito* (Strega Press, 2022), which is a

work of historical fiction that follows her family through WWII. She did research with her husband, Roger Andrew Adams, in Slovenia as well as through literature and interviews with family members. She even purchased *A King's Heritage* by Peter II of Yugoslavia.



**Gašper Beguš**, Assistant Professor Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, recently published a study entitled "Distinguishing Cognitive from Historical Influences in Phonology" in the journal *Language*. It reports on fieldwork in English and Slovene and can be accessed here: [muse.jhu.edu/article/849525](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/849525). He was also recently interviewed by actor, TV presenter, and Youtuber Nik Škrlec. He discussed his work with language, artificial intelligence, and the CETI Project ([projectceti.org](http://projectceti.org)), which studies sperm whales' voices through the lens of artificial intelligence and linguistics with a goal of understanding and communicating with them. You may watch the interview, which is conducted in Slovenian, on YouTube ([youtube.com/watch?v=vCHbJNju09c](https://youtube.com/watch?v=vCHbJNju09c)).



**Wayles Browne**, Professor Emeritus in Linguistics at Cornell University, is co-editing *The Cambridge Handbook of Slavic Linguistics* with Professor Danko Šipka of Arizona State University. They have 40 chapters planned on different topics, each bringing together at least two Slavic languages. The highly international list of authors includes six from Slovenia, and the book is expected to be published in 2023. In addition, he has recently published three articles which include Slovene material. They include "Language Names in South Slavic Languages" in *Balkanistica* in 2019; "Anglijskij is from Anglija, but francuzskij is from francuz: how Slavic derives language names" in *American Contributions to the 16th International Congress of Slavists* (Slavica Publishers, 2018); and "Particles Come Back to Slovenian" in *Formal Studies in Slovenian Syntax. In honor of Janez Orešnik* (John Benjamins, 2016).



**Andrew Anžur Clement** recently published his twenty-third novel, *Nutria Tales* (2022). It is an anthropomorphic survival novel about the nutria who live in the Ljubljana River, and the entire plot takes place in Ljubljana and the swamp south of the city. Meanwhile, his 2019 novel *Tito's Lost Children. A Tale of the Yugoslav Wars. War One: Slovenia* (which is an alternative history set during the Ten Day War), was featured in Impressions 30,

an exhibit of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of Slovene independence. In addition, his short story "Embarkation," about Slovenian traveler, writer and spiritualist Alma Karlin, was selected as one of the winners of the literature contest sponsored by Združenje Slovenska Izseltjenska Matica and was published in Slovene translation in the magazine *Rodna Gruda*. He was profiled by Professor Nada Šabec of the University of Maribor in her book *Slovene Immigrants and their Descendants in North America: Faces of Identity* (ZORA, 2021). And The Wide Angle (a YouTube channel focused on current events) interviewed Clement about Russia-NATO relations, in January. He discusses Slovenia's position, and the interview can be viewed here: [youtu.be/iH239JBCg\\_0](https://youtu.be/iH239JBCg_0).

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## SLOVENE STUDIES AT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# A SPRING INSIGHT

BY MOJCA NIDORFER, Ph.D

HEAD OF THE CENTER FOR SLOVENE  
AS A SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

**The Society's fall 2021 newsletter was a pleasure to read**, as it introduced many events, some of which were at least partially organized in-person again. One such event was also a one-day symposium at the University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (UCL, SSEES) held on 22 October 2021, where we gathered together colleagues from a few universities in the UK and Slovenia, the Slovene Academy of Sciences, and online under the topic **Thirty Years of Independent Slovenia: Challenges and Prospects**. The event took place in person and all its discussions were very lively. Seeing so many colleagues in person was truly an added value that did not seem possible just one year before. The symposium was organized and chaired at the SSEES by Professor Jakub Beneš

**More evidence that the world finally feels mobile again** has come with the revival of EU academic exchanges through the Erasmus+ student exchange program. In February, Ljubljana suddenly became much more international again with students from abroad and, after a nearly two-year hiatus, the fund for our faculty exchange program at the University of Ljubljana was quickly disbursed in May. **I visited the Slovene studies program in Warsaw**, not only to give lectures but also to participate in meetings of the Slavic languages department and the faculty there. The department is going through a difficult transition, dealing with low enrollment numbers in recent years, not only in Slovene studies but in all six Slavic language degree programs. Slovene studies has been offered as an undergraduate and post-graduate degree program since 1993. Before that, Slovene was offered as language B in the South Slavic degree program, with Serbo-Croatian as language A, from 1972 onward. The department is struggling to strengthen its enrollments and seeking arguments to convince the college and university administration not to shut down parts of its programs. The Slovene program has shown many impressive results over the years, including academic publications; grant-funded research projects; between three and fourteen master's degree graduates each year; and PhD degrees earned. This was accomplished with two full-time teaching staff, one of them appointed from Slovenia. However, there is pressure for higher enrollments, and languages seem to be losing the battle for numbers and constant growth expectations.

**Another visit this spring** was to the University of Udine at the end of April. Udine/Videm is only fifteen kilometers away from Slovenia in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (the Julian March), home to a large Slovene community. However, the Udine region—which contains hilly and mountainous Alpine terrain—is quite different from the more urban area in and around Trieste; many central Slovene organizations, among them **The Slovene Research Institute (SLORI)** and the Central Office for the Slovene Language, are in Trieste. The Slovene community in the Udine region is, however, engaged in many activities, with education in Slovene for all the groups among the most important. Nevertheless, there is a constant lack of Slovene teachers, while there is a similar lack of students studying Slovene at the University of Udine, where enrollments have dropped in the last several years to about 5 graduating majors per year. The University of Udine was founded in 1976 with the goal of providing support for this multicultural part of Italy and to strengthen understanding in sociolinguistically rich environments. This mission is not supported by the university policy that the lecturer in Slovene may have only a three-year contract, with no possibility of extension; the policy is a weak point in the program, as excellent and experienced teachers are no longer incentivized to apply for the position anymore.

**The described circumstances** of these two Slovene programs at remarkably different universities share a picture of a probable future in the vicinity of Slovenia and in many other parts of Europe and the world as well. What are the right arguments nowadays to prevent the universities from cutting funding to language programs with probably not more than five students?

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## Slovene Studies Programs

# NORTH AMERICAN PROGRAM REPORTS

The latest on Slovene Studies programs throughout North America. Don't see your program? Send us a note - we'd love to include info for Fall 2022.



### OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SLOVENE RESEARCH INITIATIVE (OSU SRI) OSU CENTER FOR SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

**The Slovene Research Initiative (SRI) at Ohio State**, which since 2014 has overseen the exchange of seventeen OSU and ZRC SAZU (Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts) faculty members and researchers - with one exchange slot perennially reserved for a qualifying North American scholar at large - all representing a wide range of disciplines, has been on hiatus during the pandemic, but has plans to make up for lost time beginning in late 2022 and beyond. Keep an eye out for the OSU's next call for SRI applications.

**Angela Brintlinger**  
brintlinger.3@osu.edu

## UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



**After a two-year hiatus for the pandemic**, KU's highly successful Self Engineering Leadership Fellows and Business Leadership Program (SELF & BLP) month-long study-abroad program in Slovenia resumed this year as thirty KU business and engineering students led by two KU professors visited Slovenia in two groups from mid-May through mid-June. There they engaged with their Slovenian business and engineering counterparts and participated in seminars in their respective fields. Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, KU's lecturer of Slovenian and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian languages, provided a brief language and cultural introduction as part of the students' pre-departure orientation. Several of this year's SELF/BLP Slovenia program participants took advantage of the fully online, one-credit language

survival skills course, Introduction to Slovene, that Marta teaches each spring. These students departed for the program in Slovenia with substantial language and cultural competence, which—as they reported—proved to be very useful and rewarding during their visit. The fully online course that is offered every spring drew healthy enrollments for the second year in a row, attracting a variety of students from KU and other U.S. institutions. ■

**Marta Pirnat-Greenberg**  
mpg@ku.edu

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

**The 2021-22 academic year** saw completion of yet another UW accelerated Slovene language course sequence spanning two years and six academic quarters (66 weeks), during which our student cohort progressed from the introductory level to the doorstep of advanced Slovenian. The next iteration of our two-year Slovene language sequence is scheduled to begin in late September this year. The UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange, on pandemic hiatus for the 2020-2021 calendar years, is set to resume business in fall 2022. In a late-breaking development, a private donor has proposed a 1:1 challenge match of up to \$75,000 in endowment support for UW's Slovene Studies Program and UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange, contingent upon other donations totaling up to that amount. Look for more information from UW soon. ■

**Michael Biggins**  
mbiggins@uw.edu

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND UPDATES

## FROM THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURE AND MEMORY STUDIES IN LJUBLJANA

BY MARTIN POGAČAR, PHD, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

The Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ([ikss.zrc-sazu.si/en/predstavitev](http://ikss.zrc-sazu.si/en/predstavitev)) is the youngest institute at the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU, at [www.zrc-sazu.si/en](http://www.zrc-sazu.si/en)). A diverse interdisciplinary group of researchers (history, anthropology, linguistics, ethnomusicology, ethnology, literary history, cultural studies) primarily engages in investigations of different forms of memory practices related to the events that profoundly marked 20th century Slovenia and Southeastern Europe. Specifically, we focus on the multi-layered phenomenon of memory, its social role and political relevance, and its relation with collective imaginations of the future. The team has a growing network of international partners, including colleagues from the former Yugoslavia, Austria, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and the US.

In addition, the Institute is a key actor in driving structural changes in the Slovenian scientific sector towards gender equality and equal opportunities for all who are engaged in research, training and policy recommendation in this field. It was involved in the creation, implementation and monitoring of the gender equality plan (GEP) for ZRC SAZU.

In 2011, ICMS launched a book series, *Cultural Memory* (Kulturni Spomin, at [tinyurl.com/yddmcwrj](http://tinyurl.com/yddmcwrj)), which brings together original scientific literature dealing with this vibrant field.

The researchers publish their findings in relevant journals (*Memory Studies*, *Anthropology Review*) and also monographs and edited volumes. From among the latter, we would like to bring attention to the following.

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***The Media of Memory*** (Brill, 2020) is an edited volume that explores the nexus of media and memory practices in contemporary Slovenia. In the age of mediated societies, the country's post-socialist, post-Yugoslav present has become saturated with historical revisionism and various nostalgic framings of the past. **Maruša Pušnik** and **Oto Luthar** (eds.) have collected a wide range of case studies analyzing the representation and reinterpretation of past events in newspapers, theater, music, museums, digital media, and documentaries. The volume thus presents insights into the intricacies of the mediatization of memory in contemporary Slovenian society. The authors of chapters (**Oto Luthar**, **Maruša Pušnik**, **Kaja Širok**, **Gal Kirn**, **Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc**, **Ksenija Vidmar Horvat**, **Martin Pogačar**, **Ana Hofman**, **Iva Kosmos**, **Anja Mrak**, and **Kristjan Mavri**) engage with dynamic uses of media today and provide new analyses of media culture as archive, site of historical reinterpretation, and repository of memory.

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***Un Pays au Carrefour: Histoire de la Slovenie*** (Peter Lang, 2020) is a French translation of *The Land Between: A History of Slovenia* (first published by Peter Lang in 2008; **Oto Luthar**, ed.). The book brings a comprehensive view into Slovenian history reaching back to the time of tribal communities and antiquity in the reconstruction of the past of today's Slovenia. The authors (**Marjeta Šašel Kos**, **Peter Kos**, **Dušan Kos**, **Peter Štih**, **Igor Grdina**, **Petra Svoltjšak**, **Oto Luthar**, **Martin Pogačar**, **Alja Brglez**) attempted to complement the reconstruction of past events and central figures of the world between the Eastern Alps and the Pannonian Plain by emphasizing the intertwining of cultures and customs. Focusing on the ancestors of Slovenes the volume emphasizes that the Slavs did not inhabit an empty territory, but that they cohabitated with other peoples ever since their arrival in the Western Alps. This affected the emergence of a wide range of Slovene dialects and other aspects of Slovene cultural heritage later on. Above all, this is the only way to understand why the territory of present-day Slovenia has been since antiquity considered a "land between", a meeting point between Central Europe and the Balkans, where history still occupies a central place in the lives of its inhabitants.

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***The Land of Shadows, The Memory of the Expulsion and Disappearance of the Jewish Community in Prekmurje*** by **Oto Luthar** and **Martin Pogačar** (1st edition 2012, 2nd edition 2015, German translation forthcoming in 2022) is a tiny book that addresses the question: What brought about the destruction of the Jewish community in Slovenia's northeastern region of Prekmurje, a place where Slavic, Germanic and Hungarian histories, cultures and languages meet. The first part features a historical overview of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust in Europe and Slovenia, while the second part presents the life story of Mrs Erika Fürst, one of the Holocaust survivors from Prekmurje. To create a compelling and touching narrative, the authors used visual material from Mrs. Fürst's personal archives as well as from various publications depicting the period and the events, notably excerpts from two graphic novels: Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, and Jason Lutes' *Berlin*.

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***Zgodbe iz konzerve. Zgodovine predelave in konzerviranja rib na severovzhodnem Jadranu*** (Tin Can Tales: Histories of Fish Processing and Canning in the North-Eastern Adriatic; Založba ZRC, 2020; Croatian translation: Srednja Europa, 2020), is an edited volume edited by **Iva Kosmos**, **Tanja Petrović**, **Martin Pogačar**. In the book the authors (**Marija Borovičkić**, **Ulf Brunnbauer**, **Nataša Rogelja Caf**, **Veronika Gamulin**, **Srečko Gombač**, **Dunja Jankovič**, **Heike Karge**, **Iva Kosmos**, **Tanja Petrović**, **Martin Pogačar**, **Julijana Sokolić**, **Inge Solis**, **Alenka Janko Spreizer**, **Lea Vene**) engage with local histories of fish canning factories, an industry that influenced the demographics and lifestyles, the logic of work and the relationship between work and leisure, as well as the biographies and memories of workers. Recently, it has been the subject of transformations, relocations, and disintegration that resulted from deindustrialisation and systemic changes.





**John K. Cox**, Professor of History at North Dakota State University, was awarded the Serbian PEN Center prize for best translator of Serbian literature in 2021. The award honors his excellence in literary translation and recognizes a prolific translation career, which includes translations of Serbian authors Ivo Andrić, Meša Selimović, Branko Ćopić, Danilo Kiš, Biljana Jovanović, Judita Šalgo, Goran Petrović, and

others, as well as translations from the Slovene of authors Ivan Cankar and Mate Dolenc.



**Taylor Efimov**, PhD student at the University of Washington in Slavic Languages and Literatures, was awarded a stipend to attend the 58th Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture in Ljubljana in July 2022. She researches south Slavic languages and literatures with a focus on the countries of former Yugoslavia. She has been studying Slovenian for the past year and half with Dr. Michael Biggins and is looking forward to

strengthening her language skills in Ljubljana this summer. She plans to research Slovenian literature for her dissertation.

**Olivia Hellewell** Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Teaching Associate in Spanish and Translation at the University of Nottingham, UK will publish *Supplying Literary Translation: Slovene Literature and Routes into Translation for 'Small Nations* with Routledge in 2023. She also plans to contribute to translations of Ana Svetel's short stories to an anthology of writing by women, to be published by Dedalus Books (UK), if the project receives funding from the English PEN.

**Marko Juvan**, Professor at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU and at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, edited the volume *From May '68 to November '89: Transformations of the World, Literature, and Theory* (Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, 2021; Studia litteraria; 28). It intervenes in the study of the student movement's "rehearsal" for world revolution and its afterlife in the 1980s and 1990s by considering the role of Slovenia and the former Yugoslavia in transforming the existing world order in the areas of culture, politics, economy, and everyday life.

**Breda Luthar**, Professor of Media Studies at the University of Ljubljana, will contribute to a chapter on Slovene media entitled "Refugees and TV Current Affairs Journalism: The Epistemology of Conventions" to the forthcoming collection *Cultures of Mobility and Alterity: Crossing the Balkans and Beyond* (Liverpool University Press, 2022), which is edited by Yana Hashamova, Oana Popescu-Sandu, and Sunnie Rucker-Chang.



**Thomas McDonald**, PhD student in Comparative Literature at Stanford University, recently contributed to a book, *Nach dem Nobelpreis: Der Jugoslawien-Komplex in Peter Handkes Werk* (Königshausen & Neumann, 2022). His chapter is entitled "Place-Writing Before the Storm: Space and Place as Dimensions of Complexity in Peter Handke's pre-1990s Work as a Preface to the Yugoslav Polemics" and focuses on Slovenia. He

was also recently interviewed on a Slovene-language podcast called *Metina lista*, about his experience having studied Slovene at Stanford (two academic years 2018-2020) and his work now as an assistant teacher of Slovene language for the Educational and Dramatic Club Slovenia in the San Francisco Bay area. It will be available soon at [metinalista.si](http://metinalista.si).

**Kristina Reardon** accepted a position at Amherst College in fall 2021. She is Director of Intensive Writing and a lecturer in English and Education Studies. Her continued work supporting student writing development allows her to think critically about both her own translation and writing (narrating her mother's and grandmother's immigration stories from Slovenia to the US).



**Barbara Siegel Carlson** participated in the University of Ljubljana's Symposium on Slovene Poetry and her article "How Five Slovenian Women Poets Tear Apart Speech to Find Their Voice" ([tinyurl.com/4dv9a8pb](https://tinyurl.com/4dv9a8pb)) was published in its publication *Simpozij Obdobja 40* in November 2021. Her translations of Slovene poet Miriam Drev's poetry appeared in *Ezra: An Online Journal of Translation* in fall 2021 ([tinyurl.com/4psa3txe](https://tinyurl.com/4psa3txe)).

Other translations of Drev's poetry are forthcoming in *Poetry Miscellany*. Carlson's poems translated by Miriam Drev appeared in Slovene in *poetikon* 96-97 in March-April 2021.



**Kaitlyn Tucker-Sorenson** has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Contemporary European Thought and Literature in the Department of Comparative Literature at Binghamton University--SUNY, which will start in Fall 2022. Since defending her dissertation at the University of Chicago, she has published articles on Slovene and Yugoslav intellectual history in *Slavic Review*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Forum for Modern Language Studies*

and *European Review*. She is looking forward to reconnecting with the Slovene Studies community at the next in-person ASEES conference.

**Andreja Wieser** presided over a session entitled "Presentation of the achievements of Slovene scientists and business men and women at home and abroad" (Predstavitve dosežkov slovenskih znanstvenikov in gospodarstvenikov doma in po svetu) at the World Slovene Congress (Svetovni Slovenski Kongres), held 16-17 June 2022 in Kranj.

SLOVENE STUDIES AT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# A SPRING INSIGHT

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Slavic languages, as well as Dutch, French, German, etc., seem to be more and more in the same situation. And this situation appears nearly the same everywhere, in many universities around the globe. This is true at the beautiful, eminent Warsaw University (the largest in Poland, in a capital city with close to two million inhabitants) as well as at the University of Udine (a small university in a town of 100,000, but with a large Slovene community nearby). Once such programs are terminated, it takes years or even decades to establish them again. And knowing the data about the numbers of students twenty years ago, it is surprising to find that they were actually the same as they are today, with not more than 10 students per year. Actually, in the last decade and a half, the numbers grew higher, probably due to EU expansion and overall intensive global cooperation. It might be, then, that expectations of constant growth are not reasonable. Therefore, I think it should be our aim to preserve and protect the language, literature and culture study programs of small languages around the world, ensuring that students become alumni of such programs, as they will ensure professional knowledge and a source of in-depth intercultural understanding in the future.



Former **Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar** and **University of Washington President Ana-Mari Cauce** meeting at UW Seattle in 2015 (c) 2015 Piotr Horoszowski)



**Stara cerkvica** (The Old Church) in Sveti Ivan (San Giovanni), Trieste, the earliest church of the Slovenian settlement in St. Ivan (Vrdela), built in the middle ages (photo 2018, M. Biggins).