



THE SOCIETY
for SLOVENE STUDIES

LETTER

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President's Message... "JOIN US! VLJUDNO VABLJENI!"

AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING OVER ZOOM
NOVEMBER 6, 2020, 6:30-8:30PM EASTERN TIME

This issue of the newsletter is reaching you shortly before the start of our annual gathering under the auspices of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), our Society's parent organization, whose annual national convention will take place over two extended weekends, from Thursday, November 5 through Sunday, November 8, and later continuing from Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 15.

The Society's annual business meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 6, from 6:30 to 8:30pm Eastern time. We would be delighted to have any and all members of the Society and interested visitors attend - a prospect that has been made possible this year for the first time by the fact that, at least for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic, most live, large-scale events have migrated to virtual formats.

In order to dial into our meeting in real time, you'll need to have downloaded Zoom virtual meeting software onto whatever Internet-connected computer or mobile device you use. There is a free version of Zoom available for easy downloading here: <https://zoom.us/download>. We recommend downloading Zoom in advance of the meeting and making sure that you've registered it under your name, so that when we meet on November 6 we'll all be able to recognize each other by name, if not immediately by sight.

Beginning around 6:20pm Eastern time on November 6 (5:20pm Central, 4:20pm Mountain and 3:30pm Pacific time) you should be able to launch your way into the online waiting room for our Zoom

meeting by connecting to <https://washington.zoom.us/j/95168208562> and authenticating yourself by using this password: **sss2020**.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find a tentative agenda for the meeting, which will be conducted entirely in English. If you would like to suggest additional discussion items for the meeting, feel free to send those to me at mbiggins@uw.edu so that we can be sure to cover them and involve you in the discussion, if you would like.

There is no registration fee required for attending the Society's annual business meeting. However, if you would like to attend other online events, including the many and varied thematic roundtables, panels, keynote addresses, film showings and other events that are part of the Society's and the larger ASEEEES convention program, payment of a conference registration fee is required (visit <https://www.aseees.org/convention/registration> if you wish to register to attend sessions other than the Society's annual business meeting).

We sincerely hope you can join us on Friday, November 6. We've developed some great, far-reaching plans and partnerships for growing the Society's membership, our community outreach and our range of programs. With your continued membership and participation in the Society, you have made a substantial contribution to that growth. We would love to have a good online turnout for this, the single most strategic event in the Society's year ■

Michael Biggins,
SSS President, 2017-2023, mbiggins@uw.edu

NEW MEMBERS

Keith Batista

Kettering, Ohio

Brandon Borga

Dallas, Texas

Taylor Efimov

Bellevue, Washington

Lisa Heath

Maple Valley, Washington

Jonathan Leskovec

Blacksburg, Virginia

Franc Strgar

Eugene, Oregon

Luke Strgar

Eugene, Oregon

Dunia Terselich

Dallas, Texas

Metka Terselich

Dallas, Texas

Timothy Pogačar, SSS Treasurer

JOURNAL SLOVENE STUDIES

The upcoming (2020, number 2) issue of Slovene Studies will contain articles of interest to all readers on:

- Slovene identity and language
- Teaching the Slovene historical novel
- Slovene-Croatian political relations

The issue will also feature a review essay on Slovene personal identity from an anthropological viewpoint. There are other book reviews, as well, including two on works of fiction by writers of Slovene heritage.

The journal would like to welcome the new book review editor, Peter Jurgec of the University of Toronto, and thank Gregor Kranjc for his past service.

Slovene Studies is now moving to on-line editing at the University of Washington's journal hosting service. The move will begin to expedite receipt and review of submissions.

Timothy Pogačar, Editor

SSS OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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University of Toronto

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Mary-Allen Johnson

Ohio State University, –2023

johnson.60@osu.edu

Žarko Lazarevič

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Ljubljana, –2021,

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Grant Lundberg

Brigham Young University, –2023

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THE SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES AT THE 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASEEEES* NOVEMBER 5-8 AND 14-15, 2020

*Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

compiled by **Veronica Aplenc**, SSS Program Coordinator (vaplenc@yahoo.com)

Of the more than 500 separate thematic panels featuring over 2,000 expert participants that will be held as part of the ASEEEES annual convention this year - the first ASEEEES convention ever to be conducted entirely online - no less than twenty-five panels feature Slovene-related themes and will involve members of our Society as participants, whether as chairs, presenters, or discussants. We invite you to peruse this listing of Slovene-related panels and to consider attending some or all of them remotely, via Zoom, as a registered convention attendee.

You can register for a fee to attend the convention at <https://www.aseees.org/convention/registration>. Registered participants may attend any panels of interest to them, not just the twenty-five listed below. Note that the Society's annual business meeting will be held on Friday, November 6, beginning at 6:30pm Eastern time (5:30pm Central, 4:30pm Mountain, 3:30pm Pacific time). All times listed in the schedule below are Eastern Standard Time (EST)

For the full details of each panel, including the titles and abstracts of individual presentations and the names of participants, visit the **ASEEEES 2020 Convention website** at <https://www.aseees.org/convention/program>.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

12:00 to 1:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 16

Between Courage and Fear:

Post-war Trauma and Exile in the North-Eastern Adriatic

2:00 to 3:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 7

Plowing and Singing: Forging Women in (Post-)Soviet Russia and Yugoslavia

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

8:00 to 9:30am

Virtual Convention Room 1

The Treaty of Rapallo: A Cause for Anxiety and Rebellion

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 15

Discourses of Crisis and Anxiety in Interwar Yugoslavia: Social, Conceptual, Institutional, and Biopolitical Reflections

12:00 to 1:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 7

The Art of Subversive Action: Irony, Rebellion, and Anxiety in Socialist and Post-Socialist Russia and Eastern Europe

6:30 to 8:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 15

Society for Slovene Studies: Annual Business Meeting (open to all SSS members)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

8:00 to 9:30am

Virtual Convention Room 19

Taming the Waters: The Politics and Impact of River Management in the Danube Basin since the Eighteenth Century

4:00 to 5:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 10

Remapping Anxieties: Transnational Flows in Recent Media, Film, and Art

4:00 to 5:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 12

The Nobel Prize in Literature as a Referendum on Central Europe

4:00 to 5:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 14

Reimagining Landscape: Geographical Imaginaries in the Wake of WWII

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 18

Book Discussion: "Men Under Fire. Motivation, Morale and Masculinity among the Czech Soldiers in the Great War," by Jiri Hutecka

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 14

From Revolutionary Failure to National Retrotopia: On Anxiety and the Utopian Thought of Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav Literature

12:00 to 1:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 5

Theorizing Yugoslavia: Class, Coloniality, Gender, Race

12:00 to 1:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 24

Feared Mobilities: Policy, Discourse and Experience of Migration in 20th-Century East Central Europe

12:00 to 1:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 7

Alternative Ideas of Europe

12:00 to 1:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 15

Sport Associations in Mixed and Contested Lands of Former Empires: The Case of Interwar Rijeka, Oradea, Sudetenland, and Thessaloniki

2:00 to 3:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 21

Subjects of Inbetweenness:

Representations of Eastern European Subjectivities in 20th Century Fiction and Film

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THE SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES AT THE 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASEES

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020

8:00 to 9:30am

Virtual Convention Room 15

Book Session: "New Handbooks of (South) Eastern European History"

8:00 to 9:30am

Virtual Convention Room 18

Narrating Resistances to Anxiety and Oppression: From Yugoslav to Post-Yugoslav Perspectives

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 4

A Decade of Slovenian Anxiety: (1918–1929)

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 14

Balkan Collections in Libraries Outside of Southeast Europe

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 9

Memory, Trauma, Identity

4:00 to 5:30pm

Virtual Convention Room 13

YU-phoria, YU-phemism, YU-logy: How Literature Worries over Yugoslav Idea(l)s before, during, and after Yugoslavia

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 8

Post-revolutionary Anxieties: Partisan Veterans in Socialist Yugoslavia and in Post-socialism

10:00 to 11:30am

Virtual Convention Room 12

From "East" to "West": Discursive Spaces in Central Europe during the 1970s and 1980s

SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA (PRELIMINARY)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

6:30-8:30pm Eastern Time

CONNECT ONLINE VIA ZOOM AT:

[HTTPS://WASHINGTON.ZOOM.US/J/95168208562](https://washington.zoom.us/j/95168208562)

PASSWORD: **SSS2020**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. President's Report (Michael Biggins)
3. Secretary's Report (Kristina Reardon)
4. Treasurer's Report (Timothy Pogačar)
5. Journal Editor's Report (Timothy Pogačar)
6. Program Coordinator's Report (Veronica Aplenc)
7. OSU Slovene Research Initiative Report (Eileen Kunkler)
8. Old Business
 - i. Induction of new honorary lifetime members
 - ii. Migration of the journal to electronic format
 - iii. Recruiting
 - iv. Social media presence
 - v. Directory of Society members
9. New Business
 - i. Lenček and Velikonja award winners for 2020
 - ii. Follow-up on initiatives charted in our July 2020 Executive Council meeting with officers of ASEF
10. Calls for Volunteers
 - i. Newsletter editor(s) and assistants
 - ii. Local arrangements for 2021, 2022, 2023 conventions (New Orleans, Chicago, Philadelphia)
11. Questions, discussion and brainstorming

MEET OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS



DOUGLAS CARLTON MCKNIGHT

PhD candidate in the German Department at Georgetown University

Right: McKnight, reading inscriptions on gravestones



His primary research focus is on the cultural memory of the Second World War in Austria, particularly in relation to Austria's Carinthian Slovene community. A recent recipient of the Society for Slovene Studies' Rado L. Len ek Prize, he worked on his dissertation "Persecution and Resistance: The Carinthian Slovenes, World War II, and Cultural Memory" in Austria on a Fulbright-Mach Award for the 2019-20 academic year. He expects to defend his dissertation in November 2020.

As a PhD student in German, writing for the *Society for Slovene Studies'* newsletter is something I never thought I'd be doing. Yet since reading Maja Haderlap's novel *Engel des Vergessens (The Angel of Oblivion)* while teaching English in Carinthia (Austria) several years ago, my interest in Slovene, in general, and the Carinthian Slovenes, in particular, has continued to grow. I didn't know it back then, but reading her novel—written in German but with a sprinkling of Slovene throughout—would ignite a new interest of mine and end up forming a core part of my dissertation, which explores Carinthian Slovene collective remembrance practices of the Second World War in the twenty-first century.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, I was lucky enough to be the recipient of a joint Fulbright-Mach Award for Doctoral Candidates in Austria, which allowed to me to conduct the necessary on-site fieldwork in southern Carinthia. Over the course of the year, I visited numerous "sites of memory"

"The highlight of my fieldwork was visiting the "A-Zone Vinklhof," a farm in the Karawanken/Karavanke mountains on which Maja Haderlap grew up and which is now run by her brother, Zdravko." Douglas says

in the region dedicated to those Slovenes who were persecuted under the Third Reich and/or resisted Nazism through their participation in the *Osvobodilna fronta* and conducted interviews with various "memory entrepreneurs," the individuals and organizations keeping these memories alive today.

The highlight of my fieldwork was visiting the "**A-Zone Vinklhof**," a farm in the Karawanken/Karavanke mountains on which Maja Haderlap grew up and which is now run by her brother, Zdravko. As someone who grew up in Oklahoma, driving on the tiny, curvy mountain roads was in itself an experience, but spending the night at the farm that is a major setting in Haderlap's novel was extraordinary. The landscape—the forests and valleys, the "Graben" or "grapa" as they are called by those who live there—plays a major role in the novel. As the narrator explains early on in the text:

"In our language, going into the forest does not mean simply cutting down trees, hunting, or going to collect mushrooms. It is also a place, as told again and again, to

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Slovene Studies

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 Spring 2020.



OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SLOVENE RESEARCH INITIATIVE (OSU SRI)

OSU CENTER FOR SLAVIC
AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

The Slovene Research Initiative at Ohio State held its 2019-20 Visiting Scholar Exchange Call for Applications in winter 2020. Nena Couch from Ohio State was selected to continue her work with Dr. Rebeka Kunej of the ZRC SAZU Institute of Ethnomusicology. Dr. Matej Lipar from the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of ZRC SAZU was selected to come to Ohio State to continue his work with Dr. Berry Lyons and Anne Carey. However, due to the pandemic, both of these exchanges have been put on hold. Plans for the 2020-21 competition have not been confirmed yet. SRI is considering options for a spring 2021 event.

Eileen Kunkler
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UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

The traditional May study-abroad program in Slovenia for KU business and engineering students had to be canceled, but the new one-credit course Introduction to Slovene, which was designed with their pre-departure orientation in mind, nevertheless had its first run in spring and enrolled a handful of students. This course, which teaches survival communication skills and basic orientation in Slovene culture, will be offered again in spring 2021 as an online course. We hope that the very successful study-abroad program will continue in 2021 and that the fully online version of Introduction to Slovene will attract students beyond KU. It is suitable for anyone planning to visit Slovenia for study, business, or leisure, connect with their Slovene heritage, or just sample a fascinating language and culture.

In July, our graduate student, **Amy Millet**, who is preparing her dissertation in Habsburg culinary history, attended the 39th Summer School in Slovene Language in Ljubljana—virtually, of course. Amy received a Fulbright grant for this academic year to conduct research for her dissertation in the archives of Austria and Slovenia and she hopes to be able to start her Fulbright program in January 2021. ■

Marta Pirnat-Greenberg
mpg@ku.edu

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

The conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year saw the “graduation” of yet another cohort of UW Slovene language students, as they completed their second academic year of accelerated language study with a full 10-week quarter devoted to consolidating their language proficiency at the advanced level. As UW transitioned to all online classes beginning with spring quarter 2020 (March-June), so did our Slovene language students. We made ample use of the Slovene Film Center's generous provision of free online access during the COVID-19 lockdown to some thirty recent Slovenian feature and documentary films as study material for various student oral and written report assignments. We also scheduled weekly online conversation hours, to which we invited members of Seattle's Slovene community, with whom our students practiced their speaking, oral presentation and listening skills.. At the UW Slavic Department's June 2020 graduation ceremony, M.A. student Hannah Standley was recognized with our Outstanding Student of Slovene award. Hannah also completed her M.A. program in the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies program with the submission and successful oral defense of her thesis, titled *Secularism in Slovenia: an Anthropological Perspective*.

The new academic year, beginning in late September 2020, saw the formation of a new cohort of UW students of Slovene at the introductory level, whose growth into fluent readers and capable speakers of the language I look forward to facilitating over the coming two years.

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PROGRAM REPORTS SLOVENE STUDIES

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The longstanding UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange

(see <https://slavic.washington.edu/uw-university-ljubljana-scholars-exchange>) went into a one-year hiatus with the advent of the pandemic in March 2020. Participants selected in December 2019 to participate during calendar year 2020 (a total of six - three UW scholars from the departments of history, 3-D arts and music history, and three Ljubljana scholars from the departments of sociology, bioinformatics, and civil and geodetic engineering) have all been tentatively rescheduled to participate in the exchange during calendar year 2021.

We welcome contributions to the UW Endowment for Slovene Studies, which supports all of these and yet other types of UW engagement with Slovene studies. For more information or to contribute, visit <https://slavic.washington.edu/support-us> and do a keyword search for "Slovene." ■

Michael Biggins
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STANFORD UNIVERSITY

I'm pleased to report that research in Slovene studies continue at Stanford, despite the language program's curtailment this year due to budget shortfalls. Notably, PhD candidate Thomas McDonald (Comparative Literature) has been uncovering numerous stylistic and thematic affinities between the work of Nobel Prize-winning Austrian German writer Peter Handke and his contemporaries working in literatures as distinct as Slovenian and Japanese.

With support from the American Slovenian Educational Foundation (ASEF) Thomas was able to spend summer 2019 in Ljubljana, where he attended intensive Slovene language classes that helped bring his language proficiency to a level where he could engage with source texts in Slovene, and traveled the country, familiarizing himself, among other things, with the regions described by Peter Handke in his 1985 novel *Die Wiederholung* (*Repetition*).

On October 16 Thomas inaugurated the 2020-21 Stanford Workshop in Poetics with a virtual presentation analyzing a newly released bilingual collection of early and late poems by Carinthian Slovene poet and translator Fabjan Hafner (1966-2016). Published this year, the book was edited with original German translations of Hafner's Slovenian poems by Peter Handke. Although Handke, like Hafner, is of Slovenian parentage, his mother became fully Germanized in the 1930s to the extent that Handke grew up without the language and only a vague sense of being part Slovene; Hafner, by contrast, grew up fully bilingual in a household that used Slovene as the default language at home. One of Thomas's themes is the ubiquitous concept of *place-writing* in Handke's work and in the workshop he explored how it has colored his translation of Hafner.

The well attended workshop occasioned numerous comments and questions, and exposed participants for the first time to aspects of the Slovene poetic tradition from Kosovel to the present day. As the workshop's invited guest discussant Michael Biggins (U. of Washington) offered some context on the Slovene literary tradition in Austrian Carinthia, along with comments on Handke's interpretive approach to Hafner's poetry. ■

Maria Rode
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MEET OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS

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hide, to flee, to ambush...The forests were a shelter for many people, a hell in which animals were hunted and they were hunted like animals...The stories circle around the forest, just like the forests circle around our farm."

Seeing this in person, driving around it, and walking through it, made a lasting impression. Speaking with Zdravko—himself an accomplished photographer and theater director—about the novel, the landscape, and his work on the farm, particular aspects of the novel took on a new meaning.

While studying in Graz/Gradec

over the past year, I've also been taking intensive Slovene-language course. I've always enjoyed learning languages, but starting from scratch is always a good reminder of how difficult and time-consuming (but in the end, rewarding) learning a foreign language is. I only have a year under my belt, but this

year was helpful when in the field, particularly when reading inscriptions on gravestones and memorials. Re-reading *Engel des Vergessens*, now with some Slovene competence, added a new layer of meaning to the novel for me. Through this process, moreover, I have begun to explore contemporary Slovene-language literature as well, something that had also remained relatively hidden to me until recently. Meeting Florjan Lipuš over coffee in Klagenfurt was another highlight of my time here. We discussed my project, his novel *Boštjanov let*, and his approach to memory and literature. He even brought along a sack of his novels for me (in Slovene and in German). One day, I hope to be able to read them in the language in which they were written.

Editor's note: Maja Haderlap is one of the most prominent Slovene language poets writing in Austrian Carinthia

today. She made the deliberate, if controversial choice to write her first novel, *The Angel of Oblivion*, in German rather than Slovene, in order to give the book and its subject matter - the persecution of Austria's ethnic Slovenian population by the Nazi authorities during World War II and the legacy of that oppression across generations — the most unobstructed possible trajectory to Austria's ethnic German majority population. Judging from the many distinguished Austrian and Swiss literary prizes conferred on the author and book, her tactic was successful.

Douglas McKnight has been a member of the Society since 2017 and won the Society's Rado Lenček Prize for the year's most outstanding original research paper by a graduate student in 2018. He can be reached at dcm82@georgetown.edu. ■