

# ASEC Newsletter

The bi-annual newsletter of The Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture

Spring 2020, Volume XVIII, Issue 1

Alice Isabella Sullivan, Editor



Moldovița Monastery, Romania, 1532 (photo: A. I. Sullivan)

## Welcome

The *ASEC Newsletter* is published bi-annually. The Spring Issue is distributed on May 1, and the Fall Issue on November 1. As such, expect to receive calls for news and information in early spring (due: April 1) and early fall (due: October 1).

All news/information items should be sent to the new *ASEC Newsletter* email: [ASEC.news@gmail.com](mailto:ASEC.news@gmail.com)

In this issue:

- *Letter from the President*
- *Announcements*
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- *Upcoming CFPs and Conferences*

## ASEC Officers

**J. Eugene Clay** (Arizona State University) – *President*  
[clay@asu.edu](mailto:clay@asu.edu)

**Nadieszda Kizenko** (State University of New York)  
[nkizenko@albany.edu](mailto:nkizenko@albany.edu)

**Heather Bailey** (University of Illinois–Springfield)  
[hbail2@uis.edu](mailto:hbail2@uis.edu)

**Roy R. Robson** (Penn State University)  
[royrobson@psu.edu](mailto:royrobson@psu.edu)

**Alice Isabella Sullivan** (University of Michigan)  
[aisulli@umich.edu](mailto:aisulli@umich.edu)

Please feel free to contact any office member with questions, comments, and concerns.

For more information about ASEC, please visit our website: <https://easternchristianity.org/>



## Letter from the President

Greetings to everyone during this extraordinary pandemic. As the great Eastern Christian John the Elder wrote two millennia ago, dear friends, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you—even in this challenging time. Across the world, our universities and museums have temporarily closed. If we meet together, we do so virtually. We have all become familiar, nolens volens, with Zoom, and we conduct our classes and our research online. As we wash our hands vigorously, we, much like the medieval scholastic, wonder how many novel corona viruses can dance on the tips of our fingers. Our colleagues around the globe are sharing many of the same experiences of quarantine, sickness, death, and loss. In a strange way, we have become citizens of the world through our common struggles and the new practices we have adopted to cope with them.

All of the ASEC officers wish you the very best in this difficult time, and we hope that our common commitment to the study of Eastern Christian history and culture can be a source of strength and inspiration. Personally, I have been reading Patriarch Nikon's *Exhortation on the Plague* [*Pouchenie na morovoe povetrie*] with fresh eyes. Please make plans to participate in our ninth biennial conference, which will take place at Arizona State University, 4-6 March 2021—the sequimillennial of the death of the Syriac poet Mar Jacob of Serugh and the tricentennial of Peter the Great's church reform. We will be posting more information as it becomes available on our [website](#). We hope to see you soon, and have the opportunity to share the fruits of your learning. In the meantime, thank you for your support, and please stay well.

—J. Eugene Clay, *President, ASEC*

## Announcements



Please remember to pay your **2020 dues**. Dues are \$35 for regular members, \$10 for students, and are waived for non-U.S. members. You can pay online from the ASEC homepage (<https://easternchristianity.org/>; scroll down toward the bottom of the page) or by sending a check to:

Professor Roy R. Robson  
ASEC Treasurer  
Penn State University  
1600 Woodland Rd.  
Abington, PA 19001

Donations are also welcome and are tax deductible.

ASEC is accepting nominations for its **Distinguished Scholar Prize**. This award is for an outstanding English-language article-length publication on Eastern Christianity or on a society or societies influenced by Eastern Christian culture. Articles published in 2018 and 2019 are eligible for consideration. The deadline for nominations is **June 1, 2020**. Self-nominations are also accepted. Please send your nomination including an electronic copy of the article to Nadieszda Kizenko ([nkizenko@albany.edu](mailto:nkizenko@albany.edu)).



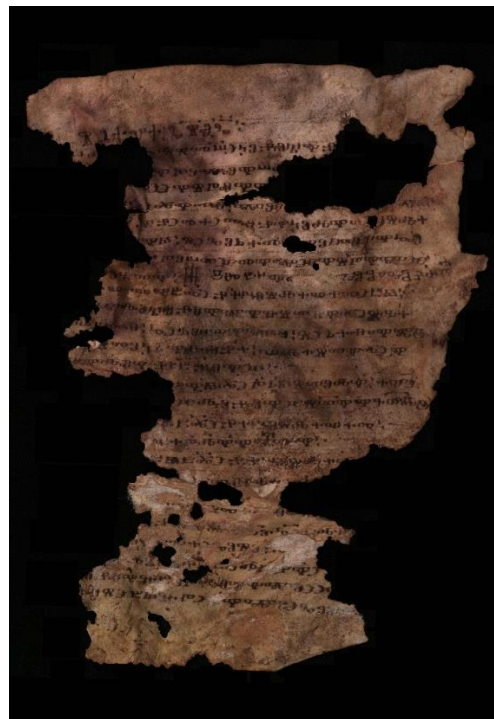
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### THE ORIGIN OF THE GLAGOLITIC-OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC MANUSCRIPTS

This is an ongoing project hosted by the University of Vienna and funded by the Austrian Science Fund. The project is dedicated to the **'New Finds' Glagolitic manuscripts held at St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai**. We are currently preparing for publication the enigmatic manuscript known as the Glagolitic Sinai Missal (MS Sin. Slav. 5/N), although the new multi-spectral images of this heavily-damaged liturgical codex are revealing this to actually be a hybrid liturgical book containing both Eastern and Western liturgical elements.

The project is hosted electronically [here](#).

Below is a picture of another Sinai Glagolitic 'New Find'. The folio seems to have been part of a lost eleventh-century horologion. It contains the monastic midnight liturgical office.



In other news, the Society of Oriental Liturgy will be meeting for their conference this summer in Thessaloniki: <https://www.soliturgy.org/> Here is how the charter of SOL defines this dynamic academic community:

“Our scope and purpose is to foster the study of Eastern Christian liturgy in all its aspects and phases (origins in early liturgy; history, current practice, theology, spirituality...), including allied disciplines (hymnography and musicology, architecture, archeology, iconography, other arts...), and its multiple methodologies (philology; textual analysis; comparative liturgiology, historiography; philosophy; practical and pastoral theology; social sciences; gender studies; ritual studies...).”

Submitted by: **Nina Glibetic**, University of Notre Dame

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**Nadieszda Kizenko**, ASEC's vice-president and professor of history, University of Albany, conducted the Museum of Russian Icons' first digital lecture on 25 April 2020. Her webinar, **“Today I Arise’: Lenten Repentance and Paschal Renewal in Russian Liturgy in the Last Years of the Empire and in a Time of Pestilence,”** can be viewed on the [museum website](#).

## [Public Orthodoxy](#) Blog

The Orthodox Christian Studies Center of Fordham University funds, facilitates, and publishes scholarly research on a wide variety of topics related to the history, thought, and culture of Orthodox Christianity. For more information about our fellowships, publications, and public events, please [visit our website](#).

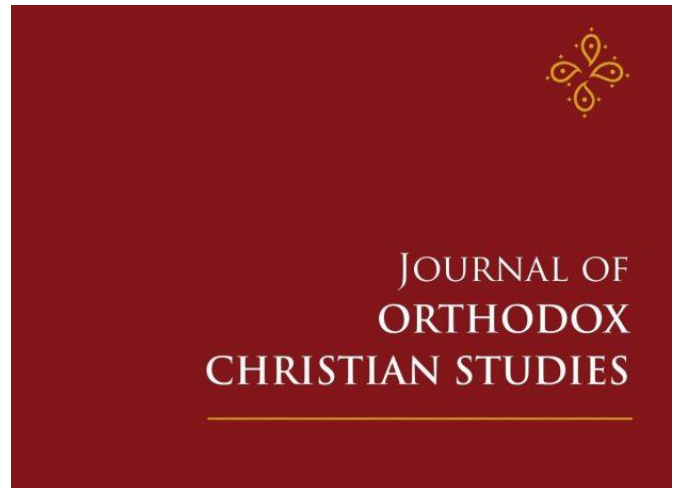
*Public Orthodoxy* is a “public-facing” initiative of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center and is designed as an editorial forum for scholars to comment on issues of contemporary concern in a manner more suited for a broad, non-academic audience. Since its launch in the Fall of 2015, *Public Orthodoxy* has published op-eds from hundreds of international scholars on a wide variety of topics to bridge the ecclesial, the academic, and the political. Although most authors hold academic appointments, *Public Orthodoxy* also publishes essays from bishops, parish priests, and engaged laypersons.

As an editorial forum, *Public Orthodoxy* is designed to prompt further reflection and conversation on a variety of issues. While we do not accept essays that challenge the dogmatic claims of Church Councils, we do adhere to the principles of academic freedom and grant our authors latitude to discern within the Orthodox tradition the appropriate response to contemporary challenges. As such, readers should know that the opinions expressed by our authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center and they should not be confused for official statements issued by an assembly of bishops.

Content is available in English, Greek, Romanian, Serbian, and Russian.



## Journals of Interest



*The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* is a double-blind, peer-reviewed, semi-annual academic publication designed to promote the study of Orthodox Christianity from a wide variety of disciplines—anthropology, art and art history, cultural studies, history, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology, theology, and women and gender studies. The journal imposes no chronological, geographic or methodological boundaries on the academic investigation of Orthodox Christian Studies, so long as the research illuminates some aspect of the history, culture, practices, or thought of the Orthodox Christian world broadly defined (including East Syrian, Chalcedonian, and Miaphysite traditions). *The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* is published by Johns Hopkins University Press, the owner of the online platform, Project Muse, and available in over 1800 university libraries across the world.

### Submissions Guidelines

*The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* welcomes articles on all aspects of the thought, history, society, politics, theology and culture of Orthodox Christianity, broadly conceived. It publishes work that is multidisciplinary and encourages methodologically innovative approaches to both historical and contemporary topics. Submissions are welcomed from scholars in any pertinent field. Authors should consider the multidisciplinary audience of the *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies*, and should shape their submissions in such ways as to appeal to this audience and provide sufficient context for those who are not already experts in the subject matter of their articles.

Please send all inquiries to:  
[journal\\_orthodoxy@fordham.edu](mailto:journal_orthodoxy@fordham.edu).

Author guidelines for manuscript submissions are [available here](#).



*Journal of Visual Theology* is a peer-reviewed open access journal that provides a forum for the expression of independent and critical reflection on matters of current academic interest in iconology, hierotopy, ars sacra and religious imagery, as well as on visual aspects of the beliefs, practices and theological discourse of past and present.

Publication frequency - 2 issues per year.

Materials on the following topics are accepted for publication in the journal (this list is not exhaustive and can be expanded):

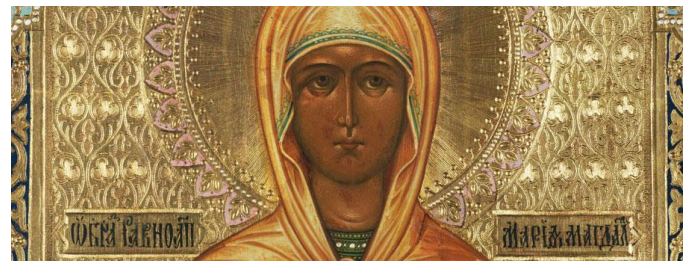
- visual aspects of religious faith and theological doctrine
- Christian theology and religious philosophy of image
- theory of sign and sign communication in religion
- semiotics of sacred space (semantics, syntax, pragmatics), construction of sacred spaces (hierotopy)
- symbolism, semiotics and hermeneutics of religious practices: liturgy, ascetics, mysticism, sacramentology
- visual (non-verbal) languages of religious experience
- visual aspects of religious consciousness
- visual axiology of Christianity: analysis of the experience of the visual expression of norms and values in religious culture, of visual environment as a sphere of normative theological didactics, of the visual field of religious practice as a communicative axiology
- visual anthropology of Christianity, including the confessional, cultural and philosophical aspects of the presentation of religious identity
- visual theology and the humanities (aesthetics, history, archaeology, cultural studies, philology, geography, ethnology, sociology, ethics, art studies)
- semiotics and the aesthetics of the icon
- semiotics and the aesthetics of temple architecture
- sacred topography
- forms of visualization of religious morality
- methods and principles of the illustration of theological text
- visual metaphor and ekphrasis in religious text
- theatrical and cinematic forms of presentation of Christianity

- visual semiotics of religious holidays
- visual theology of everyday life
- theological hermeneutics of lived environment
- sacred urban studies
- methods of theological interpretation of the world as a work of art and visual text
- figurative techniques in verbal theological discourse
- theology of the verbal image
- semiotic analysis of religious imagery on coats of arms, seals, emblems, military banners, and banknotes;
- visual aspects of religious pedagogy

The journal accepts materials written in the following formats: article, article translations, essay, interview, research report, review, bibliographic review, scientific event report. It is also possible to publish materials presented in other formats.

The journal languages are Russian, English, German and French. All materials are double-blind peer-reviewed. Materials for publication in the journal are accepted at: [vistheo@yandex.ru](mailto:vistheo@yandex.ru)

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JOURNAL OF ICON STUDIES

The *Journal of Icon Studies* is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed publication dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of icons around the globe, from the Byzantine period to the modern era. It serves as an international forum for new scholarship on the theoretical, theological and historical significance of icons, their place within a broad cultural and artistic context, as well as their conservation, collecting, and exhibiting. In addition to longer scholarly articles, we welcome reviews of books and exhibitions, archival discoveries, and translations of primary documents.

Wendy Salmond, Chapman University, is pleased to announce the publication of the *Journal of Icon Studies*, vol.2 (2019). Volume 2 may be accessed [here](#).

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## Member News and Activities



Lucien Frary, *Rider University*

“Pilgrims and Profits: The Russian Company of Steam Navigation and Trade, 1856-1914.” *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 53.3 (2019): 286-305.

“La Cuestión Oriental y los orígenes de la Guerra de Crimea,” *Desperta Ferro* 38 (2019): 6-13.

“The Russian Consulate in the Morea and the Coming of the Greek War of Independence (1816-1821).” In Mika Suonpää and Owain Wright, eds., *Diplomacy and Intelligence in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean World*. Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, 2019. 57-77.

“Bulgaria during World War II: A Review of Recent Historiography,” *Balkanistica* 33 (2020): 273-86.

“P.A. Tolstoi.” In *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900*, ed. David Thomas. Leiden: Brill, 2020, forthcoming.

“Nikita Zotov.” In *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900*, ed. David Thomas. Leiden: Brill, 2020, forthcoming.

“Johan Gustav Christian von Struve.” In *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900*, ed. David Thomas. Leiden: Brill, 2020, forthcoming.

“V.M. Dolgorukov.” In *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900*, ed. David Thomas. Leiden: Brill, 2020, forthcoming.

“Matvei Mironov”. In *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1900*, ed. David Thomas. Leiden: Brill, 2020, forthcoming.

Anna Ohanyan, ed. *Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture in Post-Communist Eurasia and Beyond*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2018. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 32:2 (2020): 416-17.

Michael Fredholm. *Transnational Organized Crime and Jihadist Terrorism: Russian Speaking Networks in Western Europe*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2018. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 32:1 (2020): 194-95.

Review of Andrew Robarts, *Migration and Disease in the Black Sea Region: Ottoman-Russian Relations in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016. H-Russia (March, 2019).

Review of Michael Provence, *The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. H-War, H-Net Reviews. (August, 2018).

Review of Yiğit Akin, *When the War Came Home: The Ottomans' Great War and the Devastation of an Empire*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2018. *Journal of Military History* 82.3 (2018): 976-78.

Review of Evrydiki Sifneos, *Imperial Odessa: Peoples, Spaces, Identities*. Leiden: Brill, 2018. *Ab Imperio* 3 (2018): 448-52.

Review of R. P. Grišina, et al., *Balkany v evropejskich političeskich proektach XIX–XXI vv. Sbornik statej*. Moscow: RAN, 2014. *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* jgo.e-reviews 2018 – 2.

Review of Olga Katsiardi-Hering and Maria A. Stassinopoulou, eds., *Across the Danube Southeastern Europeans and Their Travelling Identities (17th–19th C.)*. Leiden: Brill, 2017. *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, jgo.e-reviews 2018 – 2.

Review of Michail V. Škarovskij, *Konstantinopol'skij patriarhat i Russkaja Pravoslavnaja Cerkov' v pervoj polovine XX veka*. Moscow: Indrik, 2014. *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, jgo.e-reviews 2018 – 1.

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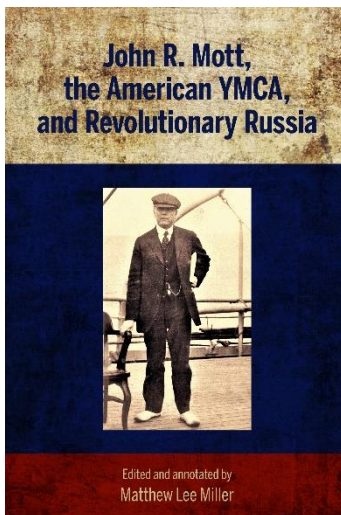
Scott Kenworthy, *Miami University of Ohio* received a **National Endowment for the Humanities Summer 2020** Stipend for his book project, *Patriarch Tikhon Bellavin and the Orthodox Church in Revolutionary Russia*.

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Matthe Lee Miller, *University of Northwestern St. Paul, Minnesota*

[John R. Mott, the American YMCA, and Revolutionary Russia](#) (Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica Publishers/Indiana University, 2020).

This is volume 12 in the book series *Americans in Revolutionary Russia*, which highlights the observations and experiences of a diverse group of women and men from the United States who witnessed the outbreak of war and revolution between 1914 and 1921. Each volume of primary source documents includes a historical introduction and explanatory



footnotes. Miller's volume presents a collection of public addresses and letters created during Mott's participation in a US diplomatic mission to Russia—sent by President Woodrow Wilson and led by Elihu Root—from May to August 1917. These documents describe this Root Mission and offer perspectives on several momentous events and leaders of the era: World War I, the February Revolution, officials of the Provisional Government, and clergy of the Orthodox Church. In one document, Mott presents his plan for a Young Men's Christian Association program of social, educational, and spiritual assistance for the empire's soldiers. Together, these writings illustrate the assumptions, convictions, and relationships that contributed to a very significant episode of Russian-American interaction. Mott, a key leader of global outreach for the YMCA, stands out as an influential Protestant leader of his generation. In 1946, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his lifelong effort to promote cooperative ministry around the world.

Review of Dominic Erdozain, ed., *The Dangerous God: Christianity and the Soviet Experiment* (2017), *East-West Church Report* 27:4 (2019): 15-16.

Review of Paul Mojzes, ed., *North American Churches and the Cold War* (2018), *East-West Church Report* 27:3 (2019): 15-16.

Review of Julie deGraffenried and Zoe Knox, eds., *Voices of the Voiceless: Religion, Communism, and the Keston Archive* (2019), *Journal of Church and State* (forthcoming in 2020).

“The YMCA Press, Russian Orthodoxy, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn” in *Solzhenitsyn and American Culture: The Russian Soul in the West* (Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, forthcoming in 2020).

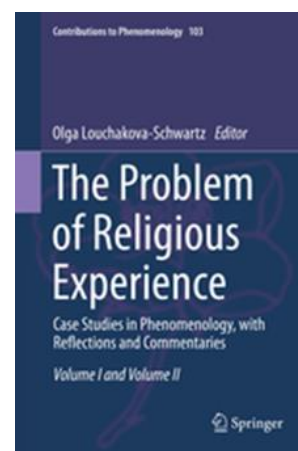
Review of Sergei I. Zhuk, *Soviet Americana: The Cultural History of Russian and Ukrainian Americanists* (2018), *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* (forthcoming in 2020).

Miller also assisted in hosting the photography exhibition *Treasures of Memory and Hope* at his university. This collection showcases the descendants of Armenian Genocide survivors pictured with their family keepsakes. This project is organized by St. Sahag Armenian Church (St. Paul, Minnesota) to preserve and revive the legacy of survivors, and to share and inspire the surrounding communities. The photos, taken by Artyom Tonoyan of the University of Minnesota, can be viewed at <http://memoryandhope.org/exhibition/>

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Olga Louchakova-Schwartz, *UC Davis*

Louchakova-Schwartz, O. (ed.) [The Problem of Religious Experience: Case Studies in Phenomenology, with Reflections and Commentaries](#), (Springer, 2019)

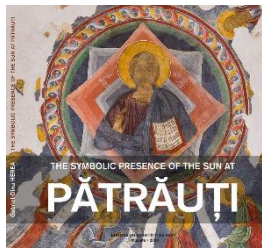


Alice Isabella Sullivan, *University of Michigan*

My article [“The Athonite Patronage of Stephen III of Moldavia, 1457-1504,”](#) *Speculum* 94, no. 1 (2019): 1-46 won two awards:

- [2019 SHERA Emerging Scholar Prize](#), Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture
- *Honorable mention*, ESSA Article Prize, Early Slavic Studies Association

I translated this book from Romanian into English: *The Symbolic Presence of the Sun at Pătrăuți* (Timișoara: Editura Universității de Vest, 2020). Written in Romanian by Gabriel-Dinu Herea; foreword by Marc Eduard Frîncu; introduction by Vladimir Ivanovic.



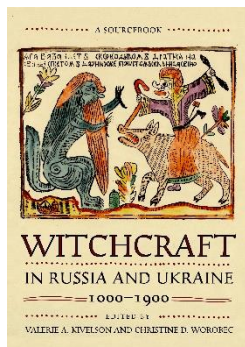
“Late Medieval Visual Culture in Eastern Europe,” co-authored with Maria Alessia Rossi, *Encyclopedia of the Global Middle Ages*, Thematic Overview. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020. Web

Review of Jelena Erdeljan, *Chosen Places: Constructing New Jerusalems in “Slavia Orthodoxa”* (East Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 450–1450, 45) (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017), in *Speculum* 95, no. 2 (2020): 546-547.

In press: *Byzantium in Eastern European Visual Culture in the Late Middle Ages*, edited volume with Maria Alessia Rossi (Brill, 2020).

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Christine D. Worobec, *Distinguished Research Professor Emerita, Northern Illinois University Press*



“Orthodox faith on the move in late Imperial Russia.” In *Nineteenth-Century European Pilgrimages: A New Golden Age*. Edited by Antón M. Pazos. London: Routledge, 2020, 205-22.

Co-edited with Valerie A. Kivelson. [Witchcraft in Russia and Ukraine, 1000-1900](#). Ithaca:

Northern Illinois University Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press, forthcoming November 2020.

Sergei Zhuk, *Ball State University*

My main project today is writing my new book *“The Seductive Adversary”: The KGB Operations against the USA and Canada in Soviet Ukraine, 1953 – 1991*: with two chapters on the KGB active measures against religion (especially against Christian sectarians in Soviet Ukraine).

I have paperback editions of my two books:

*Soviet Americana: The Cultural History of Russian and Ukrainian Americanists* (London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2018 [London and New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019] [paperback: September 2019])

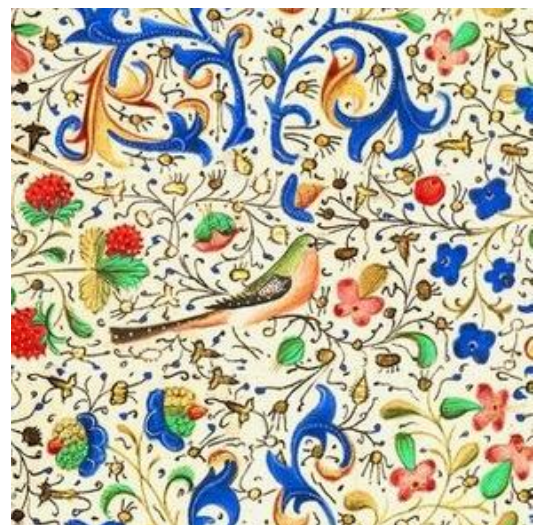
*Nikolai Bolkhovitinov and American Studies in the USSR: People’s Diplomacy in the Cold War* (Lanham, MD and Boulder, CO: Rowman and Littlefield’s Lexington Press, 2017) [paperback: May 2020]

Two chapters:

“Dances for the Masses’: Revolution, Class, Proletarian Music and Dance in Cold-War Ukraine,” Chapter 15 in *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Popular Music and Social Class*, Edited by Ian Peddie (London and New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020), 313-332

“Soviet Americanists and American Visual Media in the USSR during the Brezhnev Era,” in Simo Mikkonen, Giles Scott-Smith & Jari Parkkinen (eds.), *Entangled East and West. Cultural Diplomacy and Artistic Interaction during the Cold War* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019), 163-189

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## Upcoming CFPs

**May 30**

Religious Experience and the Crisis of Secular Reason  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy

**June 1**

The 96th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America  
April 15-18, 2021  
Indiana University, Bloomington

**June 15**

Licht aus dem Osten? Natural Light in Medieval Churches Between Byzantium and the West  
November 26-27, 2020 / or virtually  
Freie Universität Berlin

**July 15**

(Ir)Rationality and Religiosity During Pandemics: Phenomenological Criticism  
September 16-17  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy

## Upcoming Conferences

**September 16-17**

(Ir)Rationality and Religiosity During Pandemics: Phenomenological Criticism  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy

**September 30 – October 2**

Global Orthodoxy Conference  
Transnational Oriental and Eastern Christian Communities in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries  
Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, in cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religion Studies  
Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**October 10-12**

Second Regional Conference of the Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience  
“Religious Experience and Description”  
Valparaiso University, IN

**October 23-25**

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion  
Pittsburgh, PA

**November 5-8**

The Annual ASEEEES Convention  
“Anxiety and Rebellion”  
Washington, DC

**November 21-24**

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting  
Boston, MA

**March 4-6, 2021**

ASEC 9th Biennial Conference  
Tempe, AZ

Please send all news and information to  
[ASEC.news@gmail.com](mailto:ASEC.news@gmail.com)  
by **October 1, 2020**  
to be included in the Fall Issue of the *ASEC Newsletter*