

# Editorial

## The 2020-2021 Editorial Team

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I am delighted to announce the publication of the Summer 2021 edition of Slovo journal, the SSEES Postgraduate journal. We have a fantastic collection of articles and reviews on a wide array of topics that I am very pleased to be able to share with you all.

However, I first want to use this space to acknowledge the challenges that many have been facing this year. It goes without saying that this has been a very difficult year for many people. Some of these struggles are specific to the SSEES region; my predecessor finished his term as Editor-in-Chief during the protests in Belarus last autumn, and we have seen many other protests across the region while we have been preparing this issue. Others go beyond the region but are deeply personal to our contributors and readers. As I started writing this introduction, it was the year anniversary of George Floyd's murder in the United States. This last year has made particularly visible the inequities of our current world, whether racism, ableism, or other prejudices, and this has been extremely traumatic for many people.

I wish to make very clear that Slovo is committed to ensuring that we are as equitable and inclusive as possible. As a journal, we must take time to ensure that we are working to fulfil the responsibilities we have in this domain. We would welcome any feedback from our readers in this domain. We also encourage submissions on topics that have perhaps been marginalised in the discipline traditionally, whether as articles for the journal or short pieces for our online blog and social media. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch.

We have three research articles to share this year and in true Slovo form, they cover a range of topics, historical periods, and geography. First, we have Ellen Leafstedt's article *Foreign policy fatigue? Russian mass media agenda setting strategies and public opinion on the 2018 pension reforms*. Leafstedt conducted extensive analysis of topics covered by some of the main media channels in the Russian Federation in the summer of 2018. Taking us back in time, Isobel Thompson's article "*Forces for peace because of the magic in them*": *Processes of Anglo-Soviet musical exchange c.1959-1974* explores the reception of Soviet musicians and composers during the Cold War. Drawing a wide variety of British archival documents, Thompson is able

to offer new insights into the response to Soviet musicians and the particular role that music empresarios played in this cultural exchange. Finally, Violeta Vujković and Milica Vuković-Stamatović explore the gendered nature of metaphors in Montenegrin media in their article “*What a kitty!*”: *Women’s physical appearance and animal metaphors in Montenegro*. Their analysis, though specific to Montenegro, offers intriguing insights into metaphors in a wide variety of contexts.

We are also pleased to be able to highlight a range of books and films relevant to our readers. Juliette Bretan reviews Rebecca Beaseley’s *Russomania*, an exploration of the influence of Russian literature on the British modernist tradition. Next, Kryssa Burakowski considers the edited collection *Young Poland*, again exploring questions of intercultural exchange, though in this case between the Young Poland and the International Arts and Crafts movements. Following this, Shahid Hussain’s review highlights the relevance that Maria Salomon Arel’s book *English Trade and Adventure to Russia in the Early Modern Era* has for scholars of the British Isles, the Netherlands, and Russia. Finally, Louis Marmion provides insight into the works of Andreï Makine through his review of his latest release, *L’Ami arménien*.

Moving to the world of cinema, we have some fantastic films to draw to your attention. First, Alex Figurski discusses globalisation and environmentalism in *Honeyland* (Kotevska and Stefanov, 2018). Tsiti-Sopo Kevkhishvili explores the intersection of gender and religion in *Beginning* (Kulumbekhashvili, 2020). Kieran McCluskey Wakeley discusses Andreï Konchalovsky’s 2020 release *Dear Comrades!*, a return to the Soviet Russia of 1962. Finally, Matthew Rogers reviews the family saga and national history that is Mila Turajlić’s 2017 film *The Other Side of Everything*.

This issue would not have been possible without the generosity of many people, who have given their time and energy to support Slovo. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has worked with us on this issue. We are extremely grateful to all our anonymous peer reviewers, who have provided our authors with extensive feedback on their work. This is unremunerated and unacknowledged work that takes a great deal of time and energy, and we really appreciate their support. Their advice has given the authors the opportunity to grow as researchers and develop their work. We are also very grateful to everyone at SSEES, from SSEES Director Professor Diane Koenker to the journal’s faculty advisor Dr Sergei Bogatyrev. I would also like to extend particular thanks to Patricia Gabalova, Elinor Pegler, Barbora Posluch, and Lisa Walters for all their help with communications around Slovo. This year Slovo has moved to a new website and submission system, and so we have been working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible. We are very grateful to Ian Caswell from UCL Press for his support and patience with us during this move.

Finally, I would like to highlight the work of the editorial team. They have all done incredible work, in very strange circumstances. Despite never having met in person, they have formed an incredible and supportive team. They have balanced their academic commitments, work roles, family, and many other projects with great cheer and determination. I am very grateful to all of you for your work, and I am looking to our last few months working together. Due to other

commitments, Hugh Ollard and Patricia Donovan are now stepping down from their roles, but they have done a fantastic job over the last nine months and we wish them the best in the future.

**Serian Carlyle, Editor-in-Chief, University College London**