

Editorial

2022-2023 Editorial Team

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On behalf of the editorial team at *Slovo*, I am excited to present the Autumn Issue 2023 – the last issue managed by our team and the one that comes out in the unfortunate time of the anniversary of the second-year of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. And although parts of the region of our focus are still experiencing an unprecedented amount of violence, pain, and disorder, we also see examples of remarkable shared resilience and hope. It is stretched and interwoven across all countries, whether it is Ukrainian resistance, pivotal results of Polish elections in favour of the democratic opposition, or shared unity among educators and academics in their wish to continue developing awareness programmes and projects that highlight our region’s wonderful cultures, peoples, and stories. We are proud to be members of publishing bodies that work hard to present academic works which shed light on the unseen and previously unstudied aspects of Eastern and Central Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. This time round we received some excellent submissions which we worked very hard on to ensure the highest quality standard in the articles that we present.

We are proud to publish two research articles which (as is *Slovo*’s style) cover very different but equally fascinating topics and themes:

“Expressive Interrogative Sentences in the Language of the Media in Montenegro”, by Nevena Tomić-Brkuljan and Miodarka Tepavčević (University of Montenegro) is a detailed and careful examination of expressive interrogative forms in Montenegrin language and media.

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Conducting research through the investigation of syntactic-semantic aspect, the authors delved into analysis of the auxiliary verb to be (*jeste*) and the particle *li* used in specific examples from Montenegrin media, concluding that the expressive form of interrogative sentences in the media language is most often built by lexical markers and less often by structural ones. This is a compelling study that should be useful for anyone interested in linguistics and what the use of language can say about modern-day journalism, specifically in Montenegro.

“The Role of Pan-Slavism in Modernising the Russian Empire: The Slavic Benevolent Committee and the Development of an Alternative Philosophy of History” by Margaryta Bondarchuk (University College London alumna) approaches the foundations of the development of Pan-Slavic philosophy in the Russian Empire by providing an in-depth analysis of two publications from the Slavic Benevolent Committee against Hegel’s theories on the philosophy of history. The article will serve as a fascinating and insightful source for anyone interested in the formation of pan-Slavism and identity of the Russian Empire. The study should be of a special interest to those who wish to trace and understand the intellectual origins of the “Great Russian” chauvinist ideas, inspiring potential further research into Russian imperialism.

Slovo is also incredibly proud to present three book reviews in the Autumn issue. Phoebe Hardingham’s (University College London) review of “Goodbye Eastern Europe: An Intimate History of a Divided Land” by Jacob Mikanowski provides a unique appreciation of a book which deals with complicated and even problematic subjects while offering an exploration of the beauty and tragedy that encompasses the region. Joshua Robinson’s (University College London) review of Dan Healey’s “Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi” explores the timely urgency and relevance of Healey’s work today while also delving into what the reader can expect from the book. Our issue ends with an excellent review by Suvanshkriti Singh of Gary Saul Morson’s “Wonder Confronts Certainty”. Through an exploration of how effective the book’s central focus is against its main parts, the review offers a valuable insight into a new study on Russian literature’s correlation with history, philosophy and the ‘accursed questions’. We hope that these reviews will inspire our readers to explore these books or even to write a review on something of their choice for the future issues.

It goes without saying that this has been a difficult yet fruitful year of fantastic writing, resilience, and cooperation, and none of the work we produced would see the light of day if it was not for the huge efforts of a variety of people. First and foremost, I would like to thank our wonderful

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authors for their excellent contributions and submissions to the journal. It was a pleasure to work and edit your work with you.

I would like to thank the invaluable contribution and generosity of our anonymous peer-reviewers who dedicated their time, effort, and expertise to help us achieve the highest quality of articles presented. *Slovo*'s peer-reviewers do not get compensated and collaborate with us on a voluntary basis for which we are immensely grateful.

As an Editor-in-Chief, I find myself incredibly lucky to have been able to work with such a wonderful editorial team. I would like to thank *Slovo*'s team for the colossal efforts this year and for everything that we managed to develop, initiate and upbring during our tenure. I would like to thank our Managing Editor, Maria Obrębska, for providing incredible support across *Slovo*'s functions, including editorial management, communication with peer-reviewers and organizational support. I would like to extend my gratitude to our General Editors, Lindsay Jamerson, Nathan Alan-Lee, and Joshua Robinson for their hard-work and tremendous patience during delays of peer-reviewing and editing processes. I am equally grateful to our Book Editor, Giada Malugani, and Film Editor, Haoyang Chen for their efforts in not only helping our book and film reviews excel in their quality, but also their enthusiasm in supporting the team during events, initiatives, and extra tasks. I would also like to thank our Copyeditor, Callie Andress, and Typesetter, Kexin Cui, for their dedication to the process and for amplifying *Slovo*'s publishing with exciting and clean copies. I am deeply grateful to our Online Editor, Phoebe Hardingham, for an enormous effort with and rise of *Slovo*'s social media and online presence. I am incredibly proud of how much the journal's online visibility grew and cannot wait to see what further growth it is going to experience. Finally, I would like to thank our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Officer, Tereza Michalkova, for her assistance in *Slovo*'s continuous effort at improving accessibility across all its channels. I am so proud of all the accessibility initiatives that we launched this year and cannot wait to see the further transformation of the journal as an accessible and welcoming space for all student academics.

On behalf of *Slovo*'s editorial team, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the SSEES staff members who assisted us in our editorial journey. Our heartfelt thanks go to Ian Caswell who provided the team with invaluable insight into publishing functions and assisted with all the journal's operations. We would also like to thank Patricia Gabalova and the entire SSEES Communications Team for their help in distributing *Slovo*'s publicity materials.

And finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to *Slovo*'s followers, readers, and all who continue supporting student academic and publishing work. Thank you for supporting

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what, for many, is a first step into a promising academic career. Being a member of *Slovo*'s editorial team has been a great privilege, and our thanks go to all of you who continue supporting students and young scholars' efforts in academia.

I am beyond grateful for the experience of being an Editor-in-Chief of this wonderful journal and cannot wait to see what the future holds for *Slovo*.

Ekaterina Dudakova, Editor-in-Chief (2022-2023), University College London alumna

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