

Editorial

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Slovo is an interdisciplinary academic journal managed and edited by postgraduates at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. The journal covers a whole spectrum of academic discussions: from history, anthropology, literature and sociology to economics, politics, and international studies. Based at one of the world's leading departments on Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia, the journal too follows these regional contours, with papers on, and from, these areas. A bi-annual, peer-reviewed journal, *Slovo* has historically offered its authors what is often their first publishing opportunity. Yet, the journal equally welcomes experienced academics and independent scholars. Now, as a digital publication, *Slovo* is able to reach out even more to the diverse regions it appeals to.

In the current issue we share with you the truly multidisciplinary scope of our contributions. The volume comprises of two academic papers. The first 'Comparative media: *Vremya's* manipulation of foreign conflict reporting in Russia in the context of Western news providers', by Emma Heywood, is an original comparative study of the media landscape across Russia, France, and the UK. Heywood draws on what is undoubtedly a poignant ground for exploration – media in modern culture, its techniques of delivering and framing our understanding of events. By comparing the three countries' reporting of Israel's 60th state anniversary, the paper analyses the cultural premises for reportage, while also leading the reader to dwell upon the repercussions of such reports; in particular, their significance for identity politics in Russia today.

The second paper 'China in Central Asia: The Beginning of the End for Russia?' is another thought provoking research looking this time at Eurasia, exploring the economic dynamics between Russia, Central Asia, and China. The author, Garret Mitchell, questions the much heralded authority of China in Central Asia in the past five years, suggesting that deeper than assumed cultural and economic relationships lie at the heart of the Russian-Central Asian collaboration. We are delighted to share this compelling research on one of the less commonly addressed regions. Last but not least, this issue of *Slovo* includes the traditional Book reviews, led by Nikolay Nikolov, joined this year by a revived Film reviews section, led by Inese Strupule.

I would like to conclude by taking a chance to thank all the contributors. You have made it a great journey so far. I would equally like to thank the editorial board who have all made a great effort of contributing by editing and managing *Slovo*, despite the challenges of a postgraduate degree. I am indebted to Managing Editor Joris Zantvoort for his help and support, to our dedicated General Editors Ben Phillips, Olivia Humphrey, Tom Mclenachan and Ed Johnson, and to our Film Editor Inese Strupule for their time, advice and dedication to *Slovo*. We have been lucky to have Caroline de Boos and Olivia Humphrey as our enthusiastic Public Relations duo, helping us organise two wonderful film screenings this year. Finally, this issue would not have had such a smooth journey to publication without the prompt and professional advice of *Slovo's* former Executive Editor Kristen Hartmann, who has helped us throughout.