

## **Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) President's Report**

### **14 May 2022**

How glad I am to be here with you in our meeting! It is wonderful to be with you, even by Zoom. I am especially enthusiastic and grateful for your being here because it has been a demanding and painful year. You must be very tired, and there are important reasons why.

Most immediately, the Russian government's February 24<sup>th</sup> military invasion of Ukraine has called on you personally and professionally in ways many of us could not have expected. The immeasurable suffering, devastation, and damage to people in Ukraine, their relations, and their well-being have touched many of you individually, and, in addition, as your communities reach out for understanding about what is happening and why it is happening, folks turn to you as friends, experts, and leaders, asking more questions and making more requests than you normally would receive. Secondly, it has been just over two years since the onset of the pandemic, a time when work and personal life for most of you have been marked by uncertainty, the need to rethink what we usually do, your own illness, perhaps, and the illness and death of many others. Many of you have continued through this academic year to teach and work on Zoom much more than you may hope or want. It has been a hard year. Please continue to take care of you.

In these days, may the conference sessions bring you stimulation and energy. Although this is the third year now when we have not come together in person for our annual conference and General Meeting, it is my hope that our virtual coming together and support of each other in these next days will indeed bring us all stimulation and energy.

Permit me also to encourage you to put next year's annual conference on your schedules right now. It gives me great pleasure to share with you that next year's CAS annual conference and general meeting will be held in person. York University will host Congress 2023 at its Keele and Glendon campuses between May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for Congress 2023 will be ***Reckonings and Re-Imaginings***. (<https://www.federationhss.ca/en/federation-and-york-university-announce-congress-2023-theme-reckonings-and-re-imaginings>). I look forward to seeing you there!

Permit me to switch to business, good news, and thanks, starting with the Book and Article Prizes.

#### **CAS / Taylor & Francis book prize**

This year's Canadian Association of Slavists / Taylor & Francis Book Prize in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies was awarded to Megan Swift for her monograph *Picturing the Page: Illustrated Children's Literature and Reading under Lenin and Stalin*. *Picturing the Page* was published by the University of Toronto Press. Thank you to the book prize committee members Lyudmila Parts, Paul Robinson, and Kees Boterbloem for their work in reviewing the entries and deciding the award. Many thanks also to Taylor & Francis for the \$500 prize that comes with this award. Congratulations, Megan!

### **CAS / Taylor & Francis article prize**

This year's Canadian Association of Slavists / Taylor & Francis Article of the Year Prize was awarded to Ronan Hervouet for his article "Dignity, Arbitrary Rule, and Emancipation in an Authoritarian Regime: Ethnographic Remarks on the Uprising in Belarus." It was published in Volume 63, Numbers 3 / 4 of *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* (2021: 296-315). Thank you to the committee of editorial and advisory board members who made up the jury and adjudicated in this year's award process. Many thanks also to Taylor & Francis for the \$250 prize for the winner that comes with this award and for making this article available for free downloading. Congratulations, Ronan!

### ***Canadian Slavonic Papers***

Our journal continues its rich and high-quality publication record. Recently you received Numbers 3-4 of Volume 63 of the journal, a volume with a special section on the 2020-2021 Belarus uprising, and we know that work towards the 2022 issues is well underway. Thank you, James Krapfl, the journal's Editor-in-Chief, and Guillaume Sauvé, the journal's Editorial Assistant, for your energetic and thoughtful editing and production of the journal, as well as your establishing it at McGill, a relocation that wasn't, I expect, a straightforward one. I also would like to thank Bradley Smith, who edited the CAS newsletter again this year. Thank you very much, James, Guillaume, and Brad!

### **ICCEES**

Many of us will recall the remarkable success of the 10<sup>th</sup> ICCEES World Congress last August, success that owed so much to the tireless advocacy, work, and thought of our own Andrii Krawchuk and Alison Rowley, who were the ICCEES Organizing Committee Co-Chairs. Thank you, Andrii and Alison, and thanks to all of you here and others who attended and presented at the World Congress. Andrii will give his report in a few moments, and I will let him offer more detail then.

Finally, permit me to wrap up my report with some words of thanks.

I start with a thank you to Lyudmila Parts, our program coordinator for this year's annual conference. Lyudmila's organizational and energetic work has brought us together for this virtual conference. She has juggled and carried out with grace and timeliness the requirements that Congress has for program coordinators and their conferences, while making sure to take advantage of opportunities that will benefit us. Thank you very much, Lyudmila.

In settling into the President's role, I have been helped by all members of the Executive, but permit me to point to a few of them, to whom I've turned with questions more than a couple of times in this past year: Alison Rowley, James Krapfl, Andrii Krawchuk, Elena Baraban, and Heather Coleman have taken and responded to my questions with thoughtfulness and grace, and, when necessary, have brought usual timelines to my attention, thus helping to make sure that the Association is moving forward on schedule. I offer another word of thanks, too, to

Guillaume Sauvé for his attention to detail and deadlines, and for sharing with me those messages sent to the Association that require the President's attention. Thank you all!

**Members of the Executive.**

How fortunate I am—and, indeed, if you will permit me to say so, how fortunate all members of CAS are—to have such a supportive and committed Executive. In response to the Association's usual work and to its extraordinary work, our Executive members have served with thoughtfulness that deserves our recognition. In addition to those members whom I already have mentioned, I offer thanks to the following members, alphabetically by first name:

- Aileen Friesen
- Alex Averbuch
- Joe Schallert
- Joy Demoskoff
- Maryna Romanets
- Megan Swift
- Nigel Raab
- Serhy Yekelchyk
- Svitlana Kryz
- Volha Isakava
- Yuri Leving
- Zachary Mitchell