

Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) President's Report **28 May 2023**

I am very happy that we can be here together, mostly in person, for the 2023 CAS Conference and AGM. I know I am not alone in acknowledging that we have missed gathering and meeting in person, and yet I am glad that virtual attendance still is possible to make participation in our conference more accessible. The CAS conference is a highlight in the academic year, and I am pleased for the chance to catch up with you in person and online.

I recognize that this has been another demanding and painful year. Many of you are very tired, and you continue to experience sadness. At the same time, I am moved and strengthened by members' commitment, innovation, and hard work. CAS members and their students from around the world continue to work hard and with outstanding results across all the areas and disciplines that make up the CAS membership. Particularly, in response to the devastating war in Ukraine, you have expanded your activities in new, strategic, diverse, and extensive ways. For a powerful sense of what colleagues have done this year, I encourage you to read the *CAS Newsletter*, which provides an account of remarkable accomplishments and energy. Please, though, continue to take care of you and to make time for you.

It is my hope that the conference and Congress sessions will bring you stimulation and energy, not only at its panels and activities, but also from your in-person interaction with others. May you enjoy strength and excitement in what you learn and experience in coming together.

Permit me to turn to business.

I am very happy to announce formally and for the minutes of today's AGM the winners of our annual 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 Dr John-Paul Himka for his *Ukrainian Nationalists and the Holocaust: OUN and UPA's Participation in the Destruction of Ukrainian Jewry, 1941-1944* (Stuttgart: ibidem-Verlag, 2021). I am pleased also to announce, too, that Dr Kristy Ironside's *A Full-Value Ruble: The Promise of Prosperity in the Postwar Soviet Union* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2021) earned honourable mention in the book prize adjudication. Thank you to the book prize committee members Christine Varga-Harris, Ian Armour, and Alessandro Achilli 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. The Jury's full commendations are part of this year's *Newsletter*, and I recommend them to you. Congratulations, Jean-Paul and Kristy!

CAS / Taylor & Francis Article Prize

This year's Canadian Association of Slavists / Taylor & Francis Article of the Year Prize was awarded to Jeff Hayton for his article "Wutanfall: emotional entanglements in the East German

punk subculture.” It was published in Volume 64, Number 4 of *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* (2022: 420-444). Many thanks 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, Jeff, and thank you to our jury committee, which is made up of Advisory and Editorial Board members Bohdan Harasymiw, Lavina Stan, and Mariya Lesiv.

CAS Student Essay Prizes

This year’s winners of the CAS Student Essay Prize competitions are Filipp Lekmanov and Sydney Shiller. The graduate prize was awarded to Filipp, whose paper, “‘Not fashionable but just how I need it: rather tasteless’: Nikolai Chernyshevsky’s Philosophy of Dress,” was submitted by Dr Kate Holland (University of Toronto). The undergraduate prize was awarded to Sydney, whose paper, “The Crucified Land: Accusations of Ukrainian Antisemitism in Putin’s Russia, 2014-2022,” was submitted by Dr James Krapfl (McGill University). Congratulations to Filipp and Sydney, and many thanks to their supervisors. Thank you to the Student Essay Prize jury members Anne-Laurence Caudano, Luc Beaudoin, and Victor Peppard. Filipp and Sydney will receive a one-year paid membership in the CAS. In addition, the essays will be considered for publication in the association’s journal, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes*.

Canadian Slavonic Papers

Our journal editor James Krapfl will provide his report in a few moments, but I would like to underscore that our journal continues its rich and high-quality publication record. Recently you received Number 1 of Volume 65 of the journal, a special issue volume titled *The Feelings of Progress: Peripheral Temporalities in Late Socialism* that was guest-edited by Tatiana Voronina and Benjamin Kaelin. A very special thank you to James Krapfl, the journal’s Editor-in-Chief, as well as to Assistant Editor Guillaume Sauvé and the journal’s Editorial Office Staff, which this year has included Natalie Cornett and Sydney Shiller. We also are grateful to Brad Smith for his work to put together our Newsletter. Thank you all for your energetic and thoughtful editing and production of the journal, coordinating our book and essay prizes, and putting together our Newsletter. You bring to your work a huge amount of attention, energy, and thought, and your work has done the journal and the association proud. Thank you, too, to Associate Editors Heather Coleman, Piotr Kosicki, and Megan Swift and to Book Review Editors Katherine Bowers, Jane Hacking, Eva Plach, and Raymond Taras. Indeed, these committed individuals come together to make our journal strong and earn it the respect it rightly receives.

Permit me also to recognize that James Krapfl’s term as Editor-in-Chief of *Canadian Slavonic Papers* will continue through December 31st, 2023, when it will complete. I will leave the information about the transition to the Nominating Committee, but I would like to recognize and thank James once more for his work as Editor-in-Chief and commitment to editing *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. Under James’s leadership, the journal will have come out in three complete volumes, and he will have contributed to the Journal and Association in many other ways, too, coordinating the prizes and making sure they are announced on time, interacting with our publisher, Taylor & Francis, and serving on CAS committees. James commits energy, thought, and many hours to his work as Editor to make sure that the journal is thriving and

moving forward and that our relationship with our publisher, Taylor & Francis, remains strong and clear. Thank you, James!

Finally, I will wrap up my report with some words of thanks.

Conference coordinators

I start with a thank you to Kate Holland, our program coordinator and to Marko Stech, our local coordinator for their work to coordinate this year's annual conference. Kate's and Marko's organizational and energetic work have brought us together for this much-awaited conference. Moreover, as the Federation has shifted from an entirely virtual platform to one that is embracing in-person attendance and still making virtual attendance possible, it has worked hard to cover eventualities that have not needed to be covered in the past. The Federation's hard work is to be commended, but it has changed some of what our coordinators usually do. I have been copied on many of the e-mail messages that Kate and Marko face, and I can attest to the stamina and attention that their work has required. They have juggled and carried out with grace and timeliness the requirements that Congress has for associations' conference coordinators, while making sure to take advantage of opportunities that will benefit us. Thank you very much, Kate and Marko.

The CAS Executive

In the President's role this past year, I have been helped by all members of the Executive—indeed, I imagine that I have called on the Executive more often this past year than it has been called on in past years—but permit me to acknowledge three members to whom I have turned with questions more than a few times in this past year: Alison Rowley (CAS Past President), James Krapfl (*CSP* Editor), and Joy Demoskoff (CAS Secretary-Treasurer). Alison, James, and Joy have taken and responded to my questions and requests with thoughtfulness and grace, and I am grateful to them for their support and insights. Thank you, Alison, James, and Joy.

I also recognize Heather Coleman for her leadership in work to define a CAS Finance Committee and a CAS investment policy, and I recognize Nigel Raab for his work in coordinating our virtual session on decolonization in April and our upcoming session on Saturday at 3:30 pm. Thank you, Nigel.

Still, how fortunate I am—and, indeed, 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 this past year, our Executive members have served with thoughtfulness that deserves our recognition. The motions on today's agenda are the product of some of the important work that has been done this year, work that could not have been done without the Executive's input. Our colleagues on the Executive have been ready to meet on short notice, and they have come to our meetings prepared and willing to engage in respectful and productive discussion. In addition to those members whom I already have mentioned, I offer thanks to the following members of the Executive, alphabetically by first name:

Aileen Friesen

Andrii Krawchuk
Andriy Zayarnyuk
Isabelle Avakumovic-Pointon
Jeff Sahadeo
Joseph Schallert
Julia Rochtchina
Leah Rasmussen
Lyudmila Parts
Megan Swift
Olena Sivachenko
Serhy Yekelchyk
Tanya Richardson

Many thanks to you all for your dedication, thoughtfulness, and support. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you.