**Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) President’s Report**

**June 15th, 2024**

I am pleased to present my report to the members at the CAS conference, the highlight of our academic year. This has been another difficult year for all of us: we continue to mourn the war losses in Ukraine and follow with deepening concern the violence spreading even further through the world. Despite the emotional toll, CAS members continue their outstanding work in all disciplines that make up our membership. Russia’s war against Ukraine prompted many of us to rethink and diversify our fields of study, and pushed our research into new directions. You will find in the CAS Newsletter, an account of remarkable accomplishments and energy over the past year.

Here are some of these achievements. 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 Ann Komaromi’s book *Soviet Samizdat, Imagining a New Society* (Cornell University Press, 2022). Congratulations, Ann!

I am pleased to note that two books earned honourable mention in the book prize adjudication: Jeff Hayton’s *Culture from the Slums, Punk Rock in East and West Germany* (Oxford University Press, 2022) and Volodymyr Kravchenko’s *The Ukrainian-Russian Borderland: History versus Geography* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022).

Thank you to the book prize committee members Roman Krakovsky, Ivan Simic, and Megan Swift for your work in reviewing the entries and deciding the award. We are grateful 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, Ann, Volodymyr, and Jeff!

**CAS / Taylor & Francis Article Prize**

This year’s Canadian Association of Slavists / Taylor & Francis Article of the Year Prize was awarded to Serhy Yekelchyk for his article "Uphill from the Maidan: Centres of Power in Kyiv's Symbolic Geography." Honourable mention goes to Alex Averbuch for his article "Russophone Literature of Ukraine: Self-Decolonization, Deterritorialization, Reclamation." Many thanks to Taylor & Francis for the $250 prize for the winner that comes with this award and for making the winning article available for free downloading. Congratulations, Serhy and Alex, and thank you to our jury committee, which is made up of Advisory and Editorial Board members Maria Grazia Bartolini, Piotr Kajak, and Tanya Richardson.

**CAS Student Essay Prizes**

This year’s winners of the CAS Student Essay Prize competitions are Connor Haines and Michael Czyż.

The undergraduate prize was awarded to Connor Haines (U of Ottawa), for his essay “From Tricksters to Devils: Factors Influencing Tsar Alexey’s Edicts Against the Minstrels in 1648.” The paper was submitted by his supervisor Roman Krakovsky.

The graduate essay prize was awarded to Michael Czyż (McGill), “’Far From a Capital ‘Worthy of a Nation among Nations’: Critical Perspectives on Warsaw in Polish Architectural and Urban Discourse in the Interwar Period.” His paper was submitted by his supervisor James Krapfl.

An honorable mention for a graduate essay prize was awarded to Danylo Leshchyshyn (U of Toronto, now Northwestern University), “Who Rescued the Rebbe? The Challenges in Identifying ‘Righteous Among the Nations’.” Supervisor Lilia Topouzova.

Congratulations to Connor, Michael, and Danylo, and to their supervisors. Thank you to the Student Essay Prize jury members Erica Fraiser, Eduard Baidaus, and Antony Kalashnikov. Connor and Michael 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 Rolf Hellebust 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. Thank you to the journal’s Editor-in-Chief, as well as to Assistant Editor Antony Kalashnikov and the journal’s Editorial Office Staff Natalie Cornett*.* Thank you all for your energetic and thoughtful editing and production of the journal, and coordinating our book and essay prizes, and our Newsletter. Your work requires a huge amount of attention, energy, and thought, and it has done the journal and the association proud. Thank you, too, to Associate Editors Heather Coleman, Piotr Kosicki, and James Krapfl and to Book Review Editors Jane Hacking, Eva Plach, Dragana Obradovic, and Raymond Taras.

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

**Conference coordinators.** I start with a thank you to Daniel Pratt, our program coordinator and to Kristy Ironside, our local coordinator for their work to bring about this year’s annual conference. Daniel’s and Kristy’s organizational and energetic work have made this conference run smoothly at the time when McGill campus is in turmoil. Those of us who have done this work before, know how much time and energy it requires, but no one had to do it in these conditions. Thank you very much, Daniel and Kristy for your hard work, preciseness with detail, and clear-headedness.

**The CAS Executive.** In the President’s role this year, my first year, I have been helped by all members of the Executive and I would like to acknowledge the members to whom I have turned with questions regularly this past year: Mark Conliffe (CAS Past President), James Krapfl (CSP past Editor and Vice-President), Joy Demoskoff (CAS Secretary-Treasurer), Heather Coleman (Representative to ICCEES and the person who knows everything there is to know about CAS), and Nigel Raab (Vice-President). I am grateful to Joy, Heather, and James for the hard work of keeping CAS finances in order. Nigel, thank you for putting the Newsletter together. All of you have guided and helped me, and I am fortunate to have such a supportive and committed Executive.