

UnSSEESing

THE ALUMNI
MAGAZINE
FROM SSEES
FEATURING...

*FAREWELLS,
BEEKEEPING,
ARCHITECTURE,
REVOLUTION-
AND MORE!*

Welcome to the latest issue of *UnSSEESing*

At SSEES the times, they are a-changing. In this edition, we bid a fond farewell to Director of SSEES, Jan Kubik. We also look back to the energetic SSEES administrator Dorothy Galton whose life continues to puzzle us. And finally, we all know that there are no limits to how far a SSEES degree can take us. Derek Lamberton tells us his remarkable story that has taken him from Kabul to Washington and explains how Belgrade and Boston are brutalist bedfellows. We hope you enjoy reading, and welcome any comments which should be sent to l.bettiol@ucl.ac.uk.

Felicity Probert



Farewell to **Jan Kubik**

In late June, on one of the hottest days of the year so far, SSEES academic and administrative staff gathered in the Masaryk Senior Common Room to say goodbye to Jan Kubik, the out-going director.

After two very successful years, Jan is returning to the States to resume his post at Rutgers University. When he wrote to staff in February telling them the news, he did so with a heavy heart, citing various reasons, not least of which was family whom he has missed. The deal with the family was that his contribution to the family income would not decline as a consequence of his move, but with London expenses and then the decline of the pound the sums increasingly did not add up. And then there was the very large amount of non-academic work expected of British academics, seriously impacting on the amount of time for research. Eventually he understood that his 'true passion is research, writing, teaching, and increasingly, the dissemination of knowledge outside academia'. Jan will be much missed. During his tenure the profile of the School has been raised, through the success of the Centenary year but also thanks to Jan's ability to forge strong networks across the SSEES region and beyond.



The party was well attended. The wine flowed, the food was delicious and the cake excellent, once it had been speared by the Director (*see image, below left*). Speeches followed with Jan delivering an entertaining parable about the 'American Uncle' (him) visiting the English family (SSEES). It is not all sad news however, as Professor Kubik will remain as a SSEES staff member in a part-time capacity to participate in a major research project which has received funding.

Professor Simon Dixon has agreed to step into his shoes as Acting Director until the new Director, Professor Diane Koenker, starts on January 1, 2018. Professor Koenker, who will be Professor of Russian and Soviet History, is a distinguished historian currently in the Department of History at the University of Illinois.

Images above and left: Jan Kubik



Dorothy Galton (1901–1991) **SSEES Secretary: Administrator, Beekeeper or Soviet Spy?** *Faith Wigzell*

Private secretary to Professor Sir Bernard Pares from 1928, Dorothy Galton became the School's Secretary and sole academic administrator in 1932 when SSEES gained its independence within the University of London. She remained in post until 1961. Admissions, appointments, timetables, finance, accommodation, publications (Editorial Secretary to the Slavonic Review till 1940), the School could not have functioned without her. She strove tirelessly to get Russian properly recognised in the University, and was a tower of strength in organising SSEES' moves to different premises before, during and after the war. Forthright and uncompromising, she was not always loved, and was very often feared by students. In the later years students called her Dolly Galton but only behind her back. However, this stern figure striding the corridors of SSEES would help students find accommodation or complete job applications.



Dorothy Galton © Copyright SSEES

When she retired in 1961, she occupied herself with translation and beekeeping, even writing a book about apiculture in Russia.

Miss Galton sounds the ideal public servant, but the Security Services disagreed, keeping tabs on her for 30 years from 1925. They tapped her phone, opened her mail, used informants within SSEES and in 1941 prevented her getting a job with the BBC. As someone whose closest companions were left-wing, and a Communist Party member to boot (1931-36 and 1950-), she fuelled suspicions through her visits to the USSR in the 1930s and her stated reasons for leaving the Communist Party in 1936. On her first visit in 1934, an Intourist tour, she brought books for Prince Mirsky, formerly of SSEES, who had returned to live in the USSR. For the second she was a last-minute replacement accompanying Pares on an official visit, which can have afforded relatively little scope for intelligence briefings – she and Pares played patience in the hotel in the evenings. More significant in the eyes of the Security Services were her claims on leaving the CP that she had been instructed to abandon political activities owing to ‘special commitments’ or to do ‘special research work’.

So was she a spy? Nothing was ever proven, but even if she was, she had no access to secrets, just snippets of information on the military and government personnel studying at SSEES. Her first visit might have involved intelligence contacts, the second less likely. And what were her special commitments? The Soviets preferred their spies not to be members of local Communist Parties, but they would have known she was already under scrutiny, making it unlikely they ordered her resignation. Some Party supporters doubted she was telling the truth; she had earlier refused to go on political marches. Perhaps she was seeking an exit in order to devote herself to her



job developing SSEES. It is certainly possible she was told to ensure that there was a place where academic study of the USSR would not be anti-Soviet. We will never know.

*The north wing of Senate House (now part of SOAS) where SSEES was housed for many decades.
Image credit, Faith Wigzell*

For a fuller discussion of her life and contribution to SSEES see: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/dorothy-galton-1901-91-ssees-administrator-and-apiculturist-was-she-also-soviet-spy>

JOIN US

SSEES ALUMNI

SSEES Alumni Association (official) Facebook page now has over 300 members. It features events (inevitably mainly in the London area), but also job opportunities, photos and comments. It is a quick way of communicating, and if you do Facebook, we urge you to join. Do note that if you don't live in the UK, you will not be sent details of alumni events (this because of complaints from those who live far away about unnecessary emails). Events are always posted on the Facebook page, so if you might be in the UK and want to come along, you will find the details there.

Professor Isabel de Madariaga remembered.

Jane Smith writes:

‘I remember that I had the privilege of being taught by Professor Isabel de Madariaga in the 1980s. Once, during a Russian history class we were given a tantalising glimpse of the Professor’s eventful early life. The door was flung open and a strange man burst in demanding to speak to the daughter of Salvador de Madariaga. The Professor, quite unperturbed, said “I am she”. The man identified himself, looked at her for a while and then, completely oblivious to us students gazing in amazement, declared, “You’re still beautiful” before stumbling out. The Professor’s only reaction was to observe, “What funny things do happen to one” and then continue with the class as if nothing had happened.’



Professor de Madariaga at her 90th birthday celebration at SSEES

A new publication – *Considering Europe*



Two SSEES alumni have founded a new publication, ‘Considering Europe’ which focuses on politics and societies across Europe. Apart from the editors, several contributors have or are completing SSEES degrees including politics, history and culture. Find out more on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ConsideringEurope/> and on their website: <http://consideringeurope.com>

Image above: Considering Europe website

**YOUR
DETAILS**

Do keep in contact

Please don't forget to tell the Development Office if you change your contact details.

How far can you go with an MA from SSEES?

Founder of Blue Crow Media Derek Lamberton tells all.

After completing an MA in Russian and East European Literature and Culture at SSEES in 2004, I ended up in Kabul, working for an NGO training young Afghans in a variety of media roles. Afghanistan was remarkable, the destruction was devastating, and the international community's presence made a cynic of each and every one of us. That said, there were still occasional signs of progress then - and, I should add, the social life was as Dolokhovian as the 21st century might offer.

From Kabul, I moved to my native Washington, DC where I covered the White House for a large Japanese newspaper. Beyond writing daily reports, the role consisted of trying to befriend members of the George W Bush administration over rounds of golf and martinis. Needless to say, I wasn't as adept at this as some.

In 2010, I began my own publishing company, Blue Crow Media. We publish a series of architecture and design guide maps and have recently worked on brutalist maps of Boston and Belgrade. The maps sell in shops worldwide (I can barely believe it myself) and are primarily focused on 20th-century architecture. Each map is edited by an expert and features the leading examples of a specific style of architecture in a city, with original photography and text on the reverse.

Our *Constructivist Moscow Map* is a favourite. Both the typography our designer created and the angles of the photography are inspired by Rodchenko, and some of my favourite buildings in the world are featured. In October we will have a new map dedicated to the art and design of the Moscow Metro, which may be of interest to SSEES alumni.

There are certainly more lucrative ways to earn a living, but my current lifestyle is terrific, the work intellectually fulfilling, and whenever domestic life feels like a bear tied to my back, I can book a flight to Skopje or Yekaterinburg and begin work on a new title.

For more details see <https://bluecrowmedia.com>



Karabuma, or Toblerone building, Belgrade.
Photo credit Relja Ivanic, copyright
Blue Crow Media

SSEES Alumni Events

Revolutionary Party!



Image above: ComIntern image. Soviet poster dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the October Revolution and IV Congress of the Communist International. Ivan Vasili'evich Simakov.

Source: wikicommons. Ivan Vasilyevich Simakov (1877—1925) [1] - <http://red-patriot.protiv.tv/photo/11-0-143>

Come and Join It

You will by now have received an invitation to our next Food and Drink Event on Thursday Nov 2nd. As you will be aware, this year marks the centenary of the Russian Revolution. Whatever your view of it, it was one of the most important events in 20th-century history. Acting Director of SSEES, Professor Simon Dixon will give a short assessment of 1917. We will then have our usual food and drink event with an emphasis on Russian and Soviet food. Come and remember your time in Soviet Russia, its many downsides and the things you enjoyed. Why not wear a Soviet badge, belt or appropriate T-shirt?

SSEES **Alumni Events** plus...

Theatre Outing

We are planning to see 'Bad Roads' by the leading contemporary Ukrainian playwright Natal'ya Vorozhbit at the Royal Court on **December 16th at 3pm.**

A ticket at the Royal Court buys you an unreserved seat. Given the availability of concessions, please buy your own tickets and we will meet up 20 mins beforehand to try to sit together.

If you book, please let Angela Garrett (angela.garrett@talk21.com) know, so that you can receive a list of attendees and further details. Do please make yourself known to other members of the group; Committee members will be wearing badges.

As it is Christmas we propose gathering for drinks and food afterwards.

Alumni are also invited to the following events at SSEES, both free:

Thursday 23 November

A symposium organised by Dr Svetlana McMillin (SSEES) and Professor Olga Cooke (SSEES alumna) on the centenary of the publication of Andrei Bely's Petersburg and dedicated to the memory of Dr Georgette Donchin, Bely specialist and member of staff at SSEES (1960–88). Eminent Bely scholars will be taking part. **Room 433. 6.30pm reception, 7pm symposium**

Thursday 30 November

Lecture by Dr Sergei Bogatyrev (SSEES) 'Ivan the Terrible, the Orthodox Church and the Printing Press'. **Wine at 6.30pm; talk at 7.00pm.** Organised by the Great Britain-Russia Society and co-sponsored by SSEES. **Room 433.**

Internships

SSEES is very grateful to those alumni who have offered or arranged internships for students. We need more since, in an increasingly competitive world, internships offer graduates the kind of work experience that employers seek and which often leads to full time employment. If you are an employer, or you work for an organisation that would be interested in offering internship opportunities for SSEES students, we would like to hear from you.

Contact Dr Pete Duncan at SSEES
(p.duncan@ucl.ac.uk)

SSEES Alumni Association Committee

Members: **Faith Wigzell** (President), **Angela Garrett** (Vice-President), **Anna Tomlinson**, **Hugo Allen**, **Fliiss Probert** (Deputy Editor of UnSSEESing) and **Ciaran O'Donohue**. We could not manage without **Lisa Walters** and **Lilla Bettiol**, our invaluable admin support.

Newsletter edited by **Fliiss Probert** with the help of **Faith Wigzell**