



1915-

UNSEEING
UCL SSEES
CENTENARY
NEWSLETTER

Featuring... 2015

930	1988	1945	2005	1960	1917	1975	1952	1990	1947	2005	1962	1919	1977	1934
931	1989	1946	2004	1961	1918	1976	1933	1991	1948	2006	1963	1920	1978	1935
932	1990	1947	2005	1962	1919	1977	1934	1992	1949	2007	1964	1921	1979	1936
1933	1991	1948	2006	1963	1920	1978	1935	1993	1950	2008	1965	1922	1980	1937
1934	1992	1949	2007	1964	1921	1979	1936	1994	1951	2009	1966	1923	1981	1938
0	1978	1935	1993	1950	2008	1965	1922	1980	1937	1995	1952	2010	1967	1924
1936	1994	1951	2009	1966	1923	1981	1938	1996	1953	2011	1968	1925	1983	1940
2	1937	1995	1952	2010	1967	1924	1982	1939	1997	1954	2012	1969	1926	1984
3	1938	1996	1953	2011	1968	1925	1983	1940	1998	1955	2013	1970	1927	1985
1982	1939	1997	1954	2012	1969	1926	1984	1941	1999	1956	2014	1971	1928	1986
5	1983	1940	1998	1955	2013	1970	1927	1985	1942	2000	1957	2015	1972	1929
6	1984	1941	1999	1956	2014	1971	1928	1986	1943	2001	1958	1915	1973	1930
1985	1942	2000	1957	2015	1972	1929	1987	1944	2002	1959	1916	1974	1931	1989
8	1986	1943	2001	1958	1915	1973	1930	1988	1945	2003	1960	1917	1975	1932
944	2002	1959	1916	1974	1931	1989	1946	2004	1961	1918	1976	1933	1990	1947
945	2003	1960	1917	1975	1932	1990	1947	2005	1962	1919	1977	1934	1991	1948
946	2004	1961	1918	1976	1933	1991	1948	2006	1963	1920	1978	1935	1992	1949
947	2005	1962	1919	1977	1934	1992	1949	2007	1964	1921	1979	1936	1993	1950
948	2006	1963	1920	1978	1935	1993	1950	2008	1965	1922	1980	1937	1994	1951
949	2007	1964	1921	1979	1936	1994	1951	2009	1966	1923	1981	1938	1995	1952
950	2008	1965	1922	1980	1937	1995	1952	2010	1967	1924	1982	1939	1996	1953
951	2009	1966	1923	1981	1938	1996	1953	2011	1968	1925	1983	1940	1997	1954
952	2010	1967	1924	1982	1939	1997	1954	2012	1969	1926	1984	1941	1998	1955
953	2011	1968	1925	1983	1940	1998	1955	2013	1970	1927	1985	1942	1999	1956
954	2012	1969	1926	1984	1941	1999	1956	2014	1971	1928	1986	1943	2000	1957
955	2013	1970	1927	1985	1942	2000	1957	2015	1972	1929	1987	1944	2001	1958
956	2014	1971	1928	1986	1943	2001	1958	1915	1973	1930	1988	1945	2002	1959
957	2015	1972	1929	1987	1944	2002	1959	1916	1974	1931	1989	1946	2003	1960
958	1915	1973	1930	1988	1945	2003	1960	1917	1975	1932	1990	1947	2004	1961
959	1916	1974	1931	1989	1946	2004	1961	1918	1976	1933	1991	1948	2005	1962
960	1917	1975	1932	1990	1947	2005	1962	1919	1977	1934	1992	1949	2006	1963
961	1918	1976	1933	1991	1948	2006	1963	1920	1978	1935	1993	1950	2007	1964
962	1919	1977	1934	1992	1949	2007	1964	1921	1979	1936	1994	1951	2008	1965
963	1920	1978	1935	1993	1950	2008	1965	1922	1980	1937	1995	1952	2009	1966
964	1921													2011
965	1922													2012
966	1923													2013
967	1924													2014
968	1925													2015
969	1926													1973
970	1927													1974
971	1928													1975
972	1929													1976
973	1930													1977
974	1931													1978
975	1932													1979
976	1933													1980
977	1934													1981
978	1935													1982
979	1936													1983
980	1937													1984
981	1938													1985
982	1939													1986
983	1940													1987
984	1941													1988
985	1942													1989
986	1943													1990
987	1944													1991

SSEES Centenary

Snapshots from the Student History of SSEES

The Cold War and SSEES: A Neglected Page in the History

Suave School of Slavonic Girls

Dr Bolsover's Party Trick

Mary Hobson – Enrolling at SSEES at 60...

Philip Antscherl – Studying Eastern Europe in Changing Times

Gabriel Gatehouse – A BBC Journalist reflects...

UCL SSEES PhD students

Alumna unearths Revolutionary story

Centenary Events

SSEES Centenary

1915–2015

SSEES is 100 this year. Some of you who live locally have attended celebratory events already, but there are in the pipeline. Please turn to the last page for more details.

This centenary issue is a double one, devoted mainly but not exclusively to the student experience at SSEES seen through snapshots of student life through the decades.

SSEES today is not forgotten in a discussion of the enhanced and visible role played by current research postgraduates, while the final item shows how one alumna used her knowledge of history to illumine a forgotten page of her family history and turn that into a novel. I hope you are appropriately amused and entertained.

Founded in 1915 with the aim of increasing levels of knowledge and expertise about Central and Eastern Europe, SSEES' role is no less important today. The institution may be a centenarian, but far from declining into old age, it is moving forward and burgeoning.

In a unique position to emphasize interdisciplinarity in the study of our area, SSEES continues to grow its national and international reputation.

To continue this process and attract the best students from the UK and the world, it needs your help. A big fund-raising drive begins in June to coincide with the alumni dinner and runs until the major celebrations of the date of its founding in October. All funds raised will go to helping students. The Alumni Association is going to be asking every single one of you to make a contribution, however modest, to say thank you for what SSEES has given us in the past and help secure its future. Funds will go to help students.

If, like me, you have never thought of giving to your university, make this the time to change that. I shall be, and hope you will too.

And if you want to donate before the big campaign kicks off in June, you can do so via the centenary website: www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/centenary/centenary-appeal



Faith Wigzell

President, UCL SSEES Alumni Association

Snapshots from the *Student History of SSEES*

Unsurprisingly, little is known about the student experience at SSEES in the first few decades of the School's existence.

When the distinguished scholar Isabel de Madariaga was an undergraduate in the late 1930s she was one of only two; indeed between 1922 and 1940 there were only 37 students BA, MA and PhD. On the other hand there were considerable numbers attending language classes. Indeed the spy Guy Burgess made efforts to persuade Elizabeth Hill, later Professor at Cambridge, to let him join one of her SSEES classes for military and security personnel.

Few they were, but Professor de Madaraga was only one of several who went on to distinguished academic careers. It can't have been all work: in 1931, post-graduate student George Bolsover (later Director of SSEES 1947–76) broke the University of London record for the 100 yards with a time of 10.2 seconds.

Once war broke out in 1939, the School was decanted without its library from Senate House into various Bloomsbury houses, but from 1941 was housed at 15 Gordon Square. Ann Clark who began as an intermediate student in 1944 studying Russian from scratch plus French and Latin at UCL remembered there being about 20 students at SSEES including J. B. Priestley's wife. They had no library (or students' union space) until Nov 1945 when SSEES moved back into Senate House. She graduated in Russian Regional Studies just before the future Professor John Keep started his degree in 1947. He looks back:

“In 1947 the white tower of the Senate House in Bloomsbury was the tallest building in London after St Paul's. During the war it had housed the Ministry of Information. Nothing indicated that it was now involved in the spread of knowledge rather than propaganda. The first floor in its northern section was occupied by SSEES.

A winged figure in the entrance labelled, 'Spirit of the Slavs' supposedly symbolized the Slavic renaissance striven for by the School's founders in 1915.”

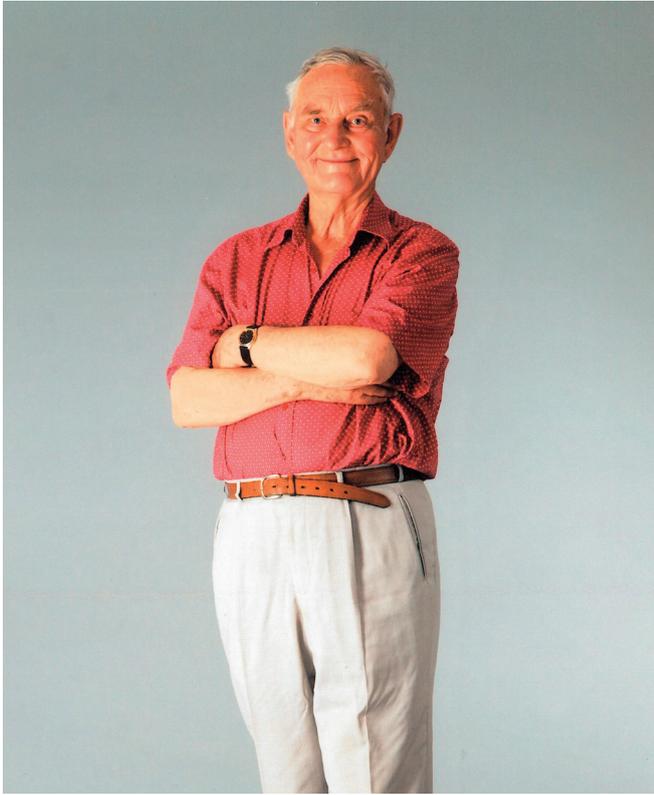


But who had really won the war? The grim figure of Joseph Stalin loomed over the region. Among the SSEES historians the leading light, the idealistic Reginald Betts, hoped that Czechoslovakia might form a bridge between East and West – hopes dashed by events in Prague. Apart from Betts, the staff were distant figures.

The formidable administrator Dorothy Galton was an expert on bees, a skill no doubt suited to her dealings with students, most of whom did 'language and literature' degrees under the supervision of the redoubtable Professor Matthews, a man reputed to speak 23 languages.

Continued on page 4

Snapshots from the *Student History of SSEES (cont'd)*



Aficionados of history first encountered Bertha Malnick, whose colourful style of dress and coiffure was a healthy antidote to the unfathomable doings of the Kievan Rus' princes – unfathomable because of the absence of a textbook corresponding to the emphasis in teaching on the economic and social aspects. The approach suited us fine since we were all politically on the left. One or two colleagues were actually competent in the refinements of Marxism. They relished the informal seminar on the topic offered by the amiable Doreen Warriner. But the man who knew all about the class struggle was the formidable Andrew Rothstein. Though well liked and an excellent teacher, his contract was not renewed, something that brought the School a good deal of adverse publicity.

Russian was officially acknowledged as an 'exotic' language entitling some to modest financial support: enough to keep one alive or rent a room for £2.10s a month but not much else. Still we were certainly better off than those wretched Russian serfs."

A more detailed account is available on
www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/centenary

*Image (overleaf): Senate House,
image (above, left): Professor John Keep*



The Cold War and SSEES: *A Neglected Page in the History*



The Cold War generated a need (calculated at 4000 plus) for Russian-speaking military translators and interpreters – hence the formation of the Joint Services School for Linguists (JSSL) which drew its students from linguistically gifted National Servicemen. From 1951–59 after an initial gruelling 6-8 week introduction at military bases, the top 25% transferred to SSEES or Cambridge for a year's training as interpreters.

Since the Admiralty was in charge of the London course, all RN plus some Army and RAF *kursanty* (as they were called) found themselves in 47 Russell Square. Though SSEES Director George Bolsover was in overall charge, the course was run on Stakhanovite lines, first by Ronald Hingley and then Bryan Toms with an émigré staff from Eastern Europe. Basil Cousins, one of the Navy *kursanty* in 1952 writes: 'We started with an intake of some 52 which was quickly whittled down to

26 by the rigorous regime of fortnightly progress tests'. Fail two tests or arrive late three times, and you would be RTU'd (returned to unit). Geoffrey Elliott (1959) recalls that classes ran 8.30am-5pm. In the sketch by Patrick Proctor RA a *kursant* scurries across to Russell Square tube bowed down by his homework: the daily quota of new words, grammar exercises, chunks of *Crime and Punishment* or an improving socialist realist novel to be digested. It was not all drudgery, as Basil Cousins notes: 'we were very lively group of midshipmen and officer cadets who included the actor Jeffrey Wickham, and we had a splendid social life'. Will Ryan (distinguished scholar and former staff member) and Peter Hill wrote a satirical revue, another intake had a rugby team and others enjoyed the cultural riches of London. It was certainly preferable to fighting in Malaya or cleaning the latrines.

The Cold War and SSEES: *A Neglected Page in the History (cont'd)*

JSSL SSEES graduates went on to interesting careers, not least as academics. Where would the Russian departments of the 1960s–90s have been without them?

*Image (overleaf): Course A assembled
(courtesy of John C. Q. Roberts)*

Image (below): courtesy of Geoffrey Elliott

For a full account of the JSSL course at SSEES, see the SSEES Centenary website:

www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/centenary



Suave School of Slavonic Girls

Headline grabbing students...



‘Suave School of Slavonic girls despatch Bedford ladies’ read the headline in the University of London student newspaper, *Sennet*, for March 1st 1960.

Declaring that ‘never in the history of Fashion Contests, student or professional, can so many young ladies have been beaten by so few’, it explained that in one of the heats for the annual London Carnival Fashion contest SSEES had defeated the holders of the title, Bedford College with its 800 women as well as Royal Holloway with 300. SSEES did have a few women: *Sennet* said seven, the *Evening Standard* said eleven. My recollection is nine, one of whom was a nun. In those days SSEES was mainly peopled by ex-servicemen, who had learnt Russian during their National Service.

In those distant days before the Beatles, before feminism, street style or degrees in fashion, when female applicants to university were expected to dress like their mothers in a nice suit and even a hat, fashion contests, unlike beauty contests, were not considered *infra dig* by those who thought they might have brains. Given the impossibility of putting together any women’s sports teams, SSEES decided to enter the fashion fray.

One student, Sara Sharpe, had some modelling experience and two others, Simone Duke and Janet Lloyd, possessed considerable poise and elegant dress sense. The other two, Judith Kerr and Faith Wigzell, qualified by virtue of being tall and slim.



The girls sashayed, or in my case teetered, in their 5-inch heels down the cat walk at Bedford College wearing their smartest outfits which had to cover a range of formal occasions. Compèring in a relaxed manner was Frank Smith, a leading light in the university revue society REVULU and later a producer on Panorama. SSEES didn’t win, but ‘the SSEES quintet were the heroines of the evening’, and went forward to the final. There their luck and my career as a catwalk model, ended.

Faith Wigzell (1963 BA Russian Language and Literature)

Image (top): Photo from the Evening Standard 25.02.1960

Image (above): Bedford College (now Regent’s College) where the contest took place. Courtesy Stephen McKay

Dr Bolsover's Party Trick

Taking it Lying Down



In Faith Wigzell's years as an undergraduate at SSEES (1959-63), the Director Dr George Bolsover was a distant, somewhat dour figure. Though he impinged little on undergraduate life, he was the object of speculation.

One bizarre rumour held that he had a party trick, lying on the floor while people stood on his stomach to demonstrate the strength of his stomach muscles. Allegedly he had performed this trick at the British Embassy in Moscow after the war. Recently Faith learnt from former Royal Navy Coder Specials (national servicemen studying Russian at SSEES in the 1950s) that the practice had continued at end-of-course parties. But for undergraduates of the early 60s such a thing seemed incongruous and unlikely, at least until 1965, when Faith and her friend Amanda Haight were at an Old Students' Association party. Finding George in a genial mood they raised the subject of the rumour. Not merely, he said, was this true, but he also offered to allow anyone who had bought life membership of SSEESOSA to stand on his stomach. As it happened, Amanda had just done so, and, after being told by the SSEES Director to remove her stilettos, duly stood on his stomach. Never assume a stern façade is all there is to know about a man.

Image (above, left): Dr George Bolsover CBE (1901-90)



Mary Hobson – *Enrolling at SSEES at 60...*



In the days of student grants SSEES had many mature students. Mary Hobson was one

Sixty-two was a very good age at which to enrol at SSEES. My four children were in their mid-twenties; my first grandchild would be born a year later, by which time they had given up all hope of my babysitting. I spent the summer enjoying the kudos of having been accepted; now it was September and I actually had to do it. I walked round Russell Square twice in a state of terror before the thought of the children's scornful sympathy obliged me to go in. And then it turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made.

I had started to learn Russian six years earlier on reading *War and Peace*. Now I spent my first day at SSEES thinking, in despair, 'I am not going to remember all this'. For the first term I either worked or slept. I visited the children and slept. I am still scarred by the horror of falling asleep on a friend's new white sofa with a cup of black coffee in my hand. Gradually my memory ratcheted up into action. And my God it was worth it. It opened a whole new life for me which I am still living and loving.

In the third year I spent ten of the most extraordinary months – 9th September 1990 to 29th June 1991 watching the Soviet Union disintegrate. The food ran out. Supermarkets with empty shelves, empty cabinets. Catering for ourselves we quickly became hunter gatherers; I bought a cabbage from an old lady in an underpass, two lemons from a woman in the Lenin Library ... I went on to do a PhD, publishing my translation of the play '*Woe from Wit*' with my thesis on the author Griboedov. In 1999 the Russian Association of Creative Unions awarded me the Pushkin gold medal for translation. In 2011 my *Onegin* was published in Moscow. I had found the writer for me – Pushkin; translating his poetry has grown into a passion. None of it would have happened without SSEES.

Mary Hobson's autobiography, *The Feast*, is published by Thorpewood Publishing this autumn

Image (above, left): Mary Hobson

Image (below): Alexander Pushkin, self portrait



Philip Antscherl

Studying Eastern Europe in Changing Times



My time as SSEES was characterised by the unknown: a combination of the historical events of the late 1980s sweeping across my chosen area of study, and the fact this was the first year SSEES had offered a social science degree.

Contemporary East European Studies or CEES (also known among some staff as CHEESE) fast became a degree course rooted in the events of the time. Reading lists became redundant sometimes within hours. Lectures were breaking news for both tutors and students alike, as historical events unfurled on a daily basis. Arriving at your tutorial to find a note pinned to the door, 'Off to the BBC; back in a while', added to the realisation that for all involved this was a time of great change and excitement.

Much time was spent amid the faded grandeur of 21-22 Russell Square, a maze of shabby, cluttered rooms, multiple staircases and damp basements - a far cry from today's spacious modern brick and glass edifice. The peeling paint and general dereliction only added to the feeling of being part of an old but venerable institution. The junior common room, a place of attrition of the mind during the day, gave way at night to the notorious bar in the dingy basement. Painted Soviet red and emblazoned with yellow hammer and sickle, its lack of light contributed to the atmosphere of impending doom for all those who passed its portals.

To recall my time at SSEES and not mention the excellence and patience of my tutors would be unforgivable: whether it was Frank Carter endeavouring to instil in us the importance of Albanian agricultural practices, or Pete Duncan struggling to convince us of the relevance of Soviet foreign policy even as the USSR crumbled before our eyes. I was privileged to have experienced such historic and tumultuous times, shepherded by so excellent a set of guides.



*Image (above, left): Boris Yeltsin on 22nd August 1991.
Picture from www.kremlin.ru*

Image (above): How one wonders, would Sir Samuel Romilly have viewed the denizens of his former home at 21 Russell Sq?



Gabriel Gatehouse

A BBC Journalist reflects...



‘Early this year, I found myself in Greece, where a radical left-wing party was about to take power, shaking the EU to its foundations.

The late, great Vitya Borovsky would have been horrified. During his tyrannical Russian language classes, he was fond of telling a particular story about his early days as an émigré in London in the 1970s. As a new arrival from the Soviet Union, he was the darling of the Hampstead intelligentsia. At dinner parties, well meaning lefties would button hole him and hold forth on the subject of Socialism.

“And what are *your* political views, Mr Borovsky,” they would often ask.

“Slightly to the right of Hitler,” would come the icy response.

He may have been only half joking. He was certainly a bit of a Nazi when it came to Russian pronunciation, and his withering rebukes over a misplaced stress could reduce sensitive students to tears. There were times, when I was first starting out as a foreign correspondent as the BBC’s stringer in Kiev, that I regretted studying Russian. In the mid-noughties, the former Soviet Union simply wasn’t a very sexy place any more. Why, I thought, had I not studied Arabic? That’s where the story was. Or, as I prepared to brave yet another bleak, icy winter, why did I not pick Spanish? I might be sipping mojitos in some sultry Latin American capital.



But the past year has brought the unfinished business of the breakup of the Soviet Union back into sharp focus. Ukrainian rebels, with the backing of Russian arms and – in some cases – troops, have seized control of large swathes of the Donbas. The Ukrainian military has been fighting back, with the support of volunteer battalions, many of whose members overtly espouse far-right ideology.

Over the past year, I have had plenty of occasion to recall Vitya Borovsky’s tongue-in-cheek reaction to the bitter polarization of the Cold War. I know from experience how hostile the pro-Russian rebels can be to the western media. But I also know that, in a tense situation, a well-observed soft sign or a correctly pronounced “shcha” can make a world of difference.’

Image (above, left): Interviewing a protester on the Maidan

Image (above, right): Playing football on the beach in Mogadishu

UCL SSEES PhD students – *now you see them, then you didn't*

Time was when research postgraduates formed an unobtrusive band of people, though 'band' is a misnomer given the lone and often lonely nature of research. An occasional meeting with your supervisor and, for a lucky few, a spot of teaching, but mostly time was spent poring over material in library or archive.

Nowadays every PhD student knows he or she must build a good CV, whether the aim is an academic career or not. For a university future, experience in teaching, conference organisation, journal editing, paper giving and publishing as well as a high-quality thesis are all essential. And since academic posts are few and far between, many research students, especially those analysing the contemporary world, need to create an impact outside SSEES and beyond the university sector.

SSEES research postgraduates rise impressively to the challenge. Currently, after initial training, 36 are gaining experience as teaching assistants. The editorial board of the journal *Slovo*, a respected peer-reviewed academic publication run by PhD students, has been publishing the work of postgraduates and academics alike since 1988.

They also run a blog. Others are involved in organising well-regarded postgraduate conferences on broad themes that can accommodate work in various disciplines and areas. And at one time only staff chaired seminars. Now, not only do postgraduates run their own seminar series, but this year also organised and chaired the Modern Russian History seminar (in conjunction with LSE).

The internet has transformed the process of involving a wider audience, both academic and non-academic, and is an area in which young scholars excel.



So *Banitza* (banitza.net) is a bilingual English/Bulgarian online magazine, run by PhD student Nikolay Nikolov, that tackles issues in Eastern European politics, (post)socialist culture and society. Its fledgling project, *Retrograd*, was set up by a group of SSEES research students as a platform for young people from various backgrounds to engage creatively and visually with the history and transformation of socialism, the goal being to explore 'big' topics through architecture, cityscapes, objects and aspects of everyday life. If you have spent time in our countries during communism, you may well find the contributions interesting: www.banitza.net/category/retrograd/?lang=en.

Continued on page 13

Image (above): Panel housing in Tomsk



UCL SSEES PhD students – *now you see them, then you didn't (cont'd)*

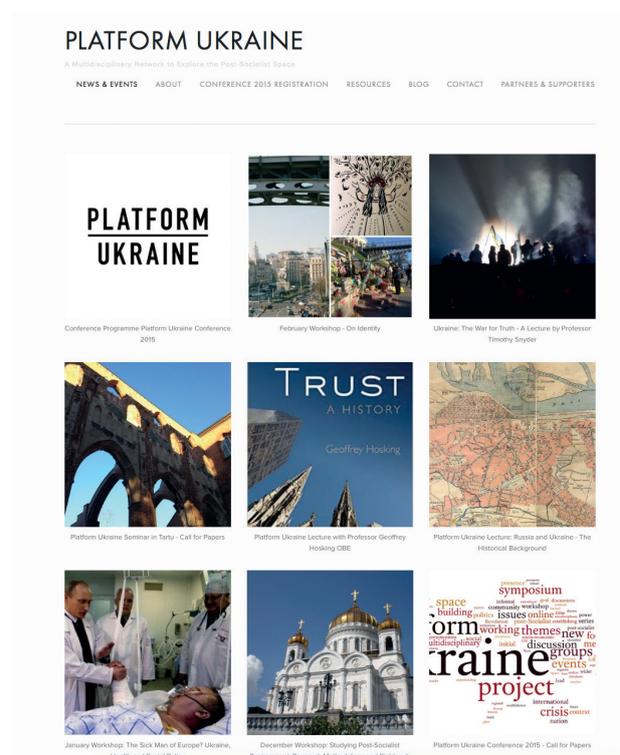
Platform Politiki is another innovation in which postgraduate teaching assistant Ondrej Timco has been supporting undergraduates in videoing their presentations for Professor Alena Ledeneva's module on Russian Politics and Society and posting them on YouTube. They aim to encourage more students to participate and to spread the concept to other UCL departments.

Perhaps the most dynamic postgraduate-led venture is Platform Ukraine: www.platformukraine.com/ with a blog and a presence on Twitter: [@PlatformUkraine](https://twitter.com/PlatformUkraine).

In just less than a year its achievements are multiple and the numbers involved continue to rise. Kanschko Sangar, Anna-Cara Keim and the other organisers see the platform as covering all aspects of Ukraine, predominantly but not exclusively present-day, and through that they aim to create a multidisciplinary network to address wider general issues in post-socialist societies. Throughout the academic year they have held monthly workshops on issues such as energy or health problems, as well as hosting lectures by major scholars. Recently they held a two-day seminar in Tartu in conjunction with the University there and are organising an international conference for early June at SSEES.

In due course, employers should be only too willing to snap up these newly minted, talented and energetic PhDs!

Image (above, right): Platform Ukraine panel at the launch
Image (right): Platform Ukraine website



Alumna unearths Revolutionary story

From the Falls Road to Vladivostok

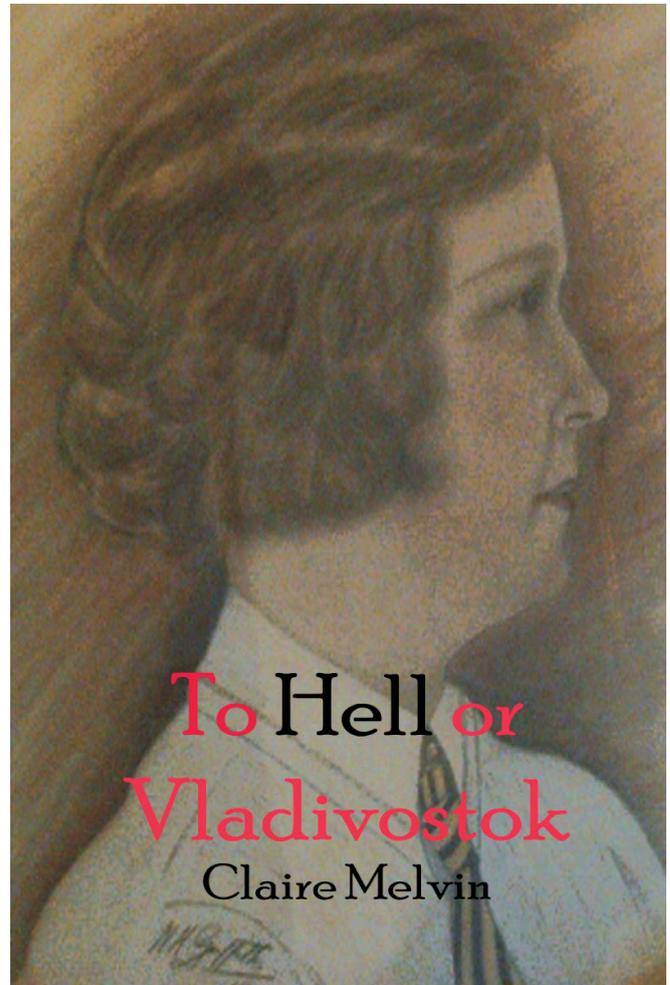
When SSEES graduate Claire Melvin (1985–1988) began researching her Belfast family history, she didn't expect to be getting out old college books and corresponding with people on Russian and Austro-Hungarian history to try to piece together the story of her great granny's sister, Annie Molloy. Claire's family had a painting of Annie, a seamstress from the Falls Road area of Belfast, and knew she'd lived in 'Russia' but, as she'd rarely talked about it, they knew little. At SSEES, Claire had studied Russian and Austro-Hungarian history but had no idea her own family history was so tied up with it.

A contact in Belfast helped her discover the family background of Annie's husband George Perkins. Canadians from the oil town of Petrolia, they had played a major role in the development of the oil industry in the Lviv area (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, now Ukraine) and in other parts of Eastern Europe, including Romania and, less successfully, in Croatia.

Through US contacts, she discovered books about the family by a Canadian oil historian. There were also family memoirs and a collection of photographs depicting how Annie and her husband, both British passport holders, were trapped on the Eastern front as the Russian army invaded Galicia in 1914. After fleeing to Kiev they had then got caught up in the Revolution. George Perkins subsequently ran an English language column in a Russian newspaper in Vladivostok, while the Allies were there.



Kopalnia nafty. Firmy, Perkins, Mac'intosh i Perkins w Boryslawiu. GA



'It was like a jigsaw – lots of pieces that needed joining up,' Claire explained. 'I even discovered Russian historian Stuart Ramsay Tompkins had become friends with them while in Vladivostok with the Canadian army.'

Drawing on her sources and her SSEES Claire has written a novel based on Annie's remarkable story. *To Hell or Vladivostok* is available for Kindle store on Amazon or the Barnes and Noble Nook store.

Image (left): Perkins Macintosh Perkins oil field in Galicia pre 1914. Image (above): book cover (To Hell and Vladivostok)

Centenary Events

SSEES

To access historic photos, articles about SSEES' past including longer versions of UnSSEESing articles, as well as find out what is on (see below), log on to: www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/centenary. Please note that, following complaints from alumni based far from London about an excess of emails, we will not be sending round automatic invitations to centenary events.

Look out for:

Chamber Music Concert of East

European music: if you missed the first held on April 30th, you may like to know that another is scheduled for the autumn.

Film Festival of East European cinema (October).

SSEES 100 conferences are being held throughout the year culminating in a major conference in December on 'Socialism, Capitalism and the Alternatives'.

Special Lecture by Professor Norman Davies on the history of SSEES in its political context (October).

Virtual trails

SSEES teachers have produced a series of eight guides called virtual trails which reveal the presence and impact on London of nine of the nations that come under the SSEES study umbrella, ranging from cuisine, history, the arts and culture.

1915–2015



Alumni and the Centenary

Alumni Dinner: we are very sorry that so many of you did not get tickets for the dinner, despite numbers being increased to 150.

Centenary mugs are available at alumni events and from Sarah-Jane Gregori (s.gregori@ucl.ac.uk).

Next Alumni event: We expect to be holding an evening meeting in November with those trained as Russian interpreters and translators during their National Service in the 1950s.

Watch out also for reproduction 1960s SSEES College Scarves which the students are hoping will be on sale in the next couple of months.

Alumni Committee: Faith Wigzell, Angela Garrett, Hugo Allen, Clare Griffin, Kathryn Larin, Sarah-Jane Gregori Paulina Polak helped and supported by Lisa Walters.





www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees