



REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Confidential

1. Lead Applicant

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Present appointment and employing institution

Chairman, Management Committee for REES and Co-Director, CEELBAS Project
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Role in activity

Administrative Oversight of the Work of the Student Organizing Committee (their names are on the attached conference programme)

2. Activity details

Type and title of activity

Russia and Eastern Europe in the 21 st Century: Looking Back, Looking Forward. One and a half Day CEELBAS Conference for REES Students in doctoral studies
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Location

Oxford

Date

From: 17 March 2010 To: 18 March 2010

Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

This interdisciplinary one-and-a-half day student conference brought together Masters and PhD level students from the CEELBAS core partner institutions (Birmingham-CREES, Oxford-REES and UCL-SSEES) as well as a smaller number of students from other partner universities to discuss their research in recent developments in Russia and Eastern Europe. A total of approx. 70 students attended out of an expected allocation of 100 places. It was organised by Oxford CEELBAS studentship MPhil students, Daria Luchinskaya and Jaroslavna Pakstaitis, with support from Dr Chris Davis, Dr Robert Pyrah and Ms Alexia Lewis.

The conference started in St Antony's College after registration and coffee with an opening session 'Welcome and Review of the Mission and Activities of the CEELBAS Programme', given by Dr Robin Aizlewood (SSEES-UCL) and Dr Chris Davis (Oxford).

Two plenary sessions followed, 'Politics and International Relations', and 'Economics of Transition in Russia and Eastern Europe'. The sessions were opened by and chaired by academics in Russian and East European Studies related fields: Dr Edward Morgan-Jones (Kent), Dr Paul Chaisty (Oxford) for the first, and Dr Chris Davis for the second. Prof Tomasz Mickiewicz (UCL) was unfortunately unable to attend the conference. There were three 10-minute presentations from graduate students from Birmingham, Oxford and UCL.

A lunch break enabled the conference participants to eat either in St Antony's College, or to explore Oxford, and provided an informal networking opportunity. A monetary contribution was provided towards lunch for all conference participants. Lunch was followed by two sessions of parallel workshops, held in St Antony's and Wolfson Colleges. These sessions lasted for an hour, within which two to four students gave 5 minute synopses of their work to provide a context for discussion. The sessions were moderated by academics and PhD students, and covered Methodology for different subject areas, Language Resources and Training, Health and Social Policy, Politics and Geography and Culture and Society. The academics involved were Dr Stephanie Solywoda (Oxford), Dr Robert Pyrah (Oxford), Dr Charlie Walker (Southampton), Dr Anna Pleshakova (Oxford) and Dr Chris Davis.

The split-session workshops ended at 16.15, and were followed by a break, with opportunities to network, and to enable conference participants to walk to Wolfson College from St Antony's. At 17.30 there was a final plenary session, 'Review of Training in REES and Related Career Pathways', led by Dr Robin Aizlewood and Dr Chris Davis. Student representatives from CEELBAS partner universities talked about their training and career experience.

The first day of the conference ended with a drinks reception followed by a conference dinner for students and academic participants, held at Wolfson College.

The second day of the conference commenced at 10.30 after an opportunity to claim contributions towards travel costs and deposits for the conference dinner. One set of parallel workshops was held in both St Antony's and Wolfson Colleges, on International Relations, Media and the Arts, Economics of Transition and History. The academics moderating the sessions were Dr Stephanie Solywoda, Dr Robert Pyrah and Dr Chris Davis. After a break, conference delegates reconvened at St Antony's College for the final plenary session – 'Identity, Ethnicity and Memory in Russia and Eastern Europe', chaired by Dr Robert Pyrah, with introductions to some of the issues in this broad area by Prof Geoffrey Hosking (UCL) and Prof Vera Tolz (Manchester). Four students then presented their work, from Exeter and UCL. The conference ended at 13.30.

List of students making presentations:

Plenary Sessions (10 minute presentations)

- Victoria Hudson, (PhD, Birmingham) '*Russian soft power and its compatriots*'.
- Alison Smith (PhD, Oxford) '*Russian electoral reform and United Russia*'.
- Tomislav Marsic, (PhD, Oxford) '*Reassessing party patronage in Southeastern Europe*'.
- Thomas Jackson, (PhD, UCL) '*International mobility and knowledge transfer: A case study of Serbia*'.
- Agnia Baranauskaite (PhD, Oxford) '*Explaining Baltic Foreign Policy towards Russia, 1994 – 2008*'.
- Daria Luchinskaya (MPhil, Oxford) '*Reforms in Russian Higher Education and Economic Crises*'.
- Sally Pelling-Deeves (MPhil Y2, Oxford) – Training and support for REES research,
- Erin Kelly (MPhil Y1, Oxford) – Evaluation of the REES first year.
- Raluca Musat (PhD, UCL) – Using CEELBAS funding for fieldwork and disseminating research findings.
- Nina Kruglikova (PhD, Oxford) - The Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia
- Caterina Balistreri (PhD, Exeter) '*Detstvo Levy and Prikliucheniia Dzherika, two autobiographical novels for the children of today's Russia: a comparison*'.
- Raul Carstocea (PhD, UCL) '*The role of Anti-Semitism in the Ideology of the Legion of the Archangel Michael*'.
- Olga Cara (PhD, UCL) '*Russian-language schools in Riga: the choice of acculturation strategies and ethnic identification*'.
- Andreea Gavriiliu (PhD, UCL) '*Ethno-business: the unexpected consequence of national minority policies in Romania*'.

Split Panel Sessions (5 minute presentations)

- Jeanne Vaz (MSc, Oxford) '*The Politics of Cold War Cultural Exchange: An Investigation into the Dynamics of Soviet-American Relations During the Post-Stalin Period*'.
- Felix Jeschke (MRes, UCL) '*Bratislava and the "Pressburger Bahn"*'.
- Harry Hayball (MPhil, Oxford) '*The Descent Into War in Croatia 1990-1*'.
- Victor Petrov (MPhil, Oxford) '*Four Nations into One: The Role of Nationalism in Socialist Bulgaria*'.
- Yakov Feygin (MSt, Oxford) '*War on the Mind: The Soviet War Myth and the Legitimation of the Cold War 1945- 1975*'.
- Elisa Coati (PhD, Manchester) '*Literary Internet communities in Russia: Pelevin fans online*'.
- Caterina Balistreri (PhD, Exeter) '*Detstvo Levy and Prikliucheniia Dzherika, two autobiographical novels for the children of today's Russia: a comparison*'.
- Olga Akroyd (MSc, Oxford) '*Beyond the Black Veil - Female archetypes in Russian literature from the Silver Age until the Thaw - 3 case studies*'
- Jana Pakstaitis (MPhil, Oxford) '*Russian-speaking minority parties in Estonia and Latvia in 1991-2009*'.
- Victoria Hudson (PhD, Birmingham) '*Russian soft power and its compatriots*'.
- Aneliya Kuzmanova (MPhil, UCL) '*Children of change: Post-socialist youth in Macedonia and Montenegro between the national and the global*'.

Olga Cara (PhD, UCL) *'Using mixed methods and surveys for research on ethnic identity'*.

Jessie Hronesova (MPhil, Oxford) *'Bosnian ethnic identity changes after 1995: Subjectivity in Qualitative Fieldwork Research'*.

Kitty Geddes (MSc, Oxford) *'Language acquisition and experiences of learning Russian.'*

Nikola Belakova (MPhil, Oxford) *'Russian language learning from the point of view of a Slavic native speaker'*.

Julie Skiba (MSc, Oxford) *'A Polish take on the Russian language: Similarities, differences and peculiarities'*.

Sally Pelling-Deeves (MPhil, Oxford) *'The nature and impact of international involvement in the Russian HIV epidemic'*.

Anna Bailey (MPhil, UCL) *'The construction of Russia's "alcohol problem"'*.

Daria Luchinskaya (MPhil, Oxford) *'Reforms in financing and organization of higher education in Russia: 1985-2010'*.

Ben Noble (MPhil, Oxford) *'Decriminalising sodomy in the former Soviet Union'*.

Kate Ferguson (MPhil, Oxford) *'Britain and the fault lines of Europe; the geopolitical spacing of Bosnia'*.

Alison Smith (PhD, Oxford) *'Membership Recruitment in Central and East Europe'*.

Maj Lervad Grasten (PhD, Copenhagen Business School) *'Nation-branding and post-Communist national identity constructions: The question of the past and present in the Polish nation brand'*.

Raluca Musat (PhD, UCL) *'Sociologists and the Transformation of the Peasantry in Romania 1925-1939'*.

Luke Chambers (MPhil, Oxford) *'Russian Military Power and the Post-Soviet Chessboard: The Case of Georgia'*.

Peter Zeniewski (PhD, Oxford) *'Poland's energy security policy vis-a-vis Russia and the European Union'*.

Erin Kelly (MPhil, Oxford) *'The political content of Russian hip hop'*.

Kate Ferguson (MPhil, Oxford) *'Making and writing history; the role of Western journalists in Bosnia'*.

Eva Smit (MPhil, Cambridge) *'The impact of European integration and the Slovak economy'*.

Imogen Wade (MPhil, Oxford) *'Local Government in Three Regions of Rural Russia: Perceptions and Performance in light of a 2006 Local Government Reform'*.

Raul Carstocea (PhD, UCL) *'The role of Anti-Semitism in the Ideology of the Legion of the Archangel Michael'*

Students chairing panels:

Nina Kruglikova (PhD, Oxford) *'Methodology: Fieldwork'*

Nadiya Kravets (PhD, Oxford) *'International Relations'*

3. Achievement of stated aims and objectives

Please summarise how the stated aims and objectives of the activities proposed have been achieved and how these have helped to further the aims and objectives of CEELBAS.

The conference fulfilled its stated aims as follows:

- **Furthering the research agenda**
This will be a relatively informal conference which will enable young researchers to present their work with expert guidance from the CEELBAS postdoctoral fellows and academics.
- **Raising awareness of the value of interdisciplinary approaches in Russian and East European Studies**
The unique advantage of REES students is to be able to use an interdisciplinary approach to address issues in Russia and Eastern Europe, which will be highlighted at the conference. The plenary sessions and workshops will address the CEELBAS research areas, and the methods and language workshops will address the interdisciplinary approaches available (see next point).
- **Methodological training**
Language training and methods training are an integral part to CEELBAS, and the 17th March afternoon workshops have been specifically designed to target different methodological approaches and discuss the language training. The conference will focus on methods from different disciplines including: Politics, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Environment, Health and Social Policy, Cultural Studies and History.
- **Networking Opportunities**
Participants will be able to present their PhD work in progress, discuss their ideas and set the agenda for discussion in an informal setting as well as receive expert guidance and advice. The conference structure will provide opportunities for informal networking during the lunch, dinner and drinks, as well as coffee breaks.
- **Career training and awareness**
In light of the current economic situation the session on Career Pathways will be an invaluable source of information specific to REES students.
- **The overall aim of the conference is to bring together the graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and academics in CEELBAS partner institutions to a stimulating, dynamic yet informal forum for discussion and dissemination of new research and ideas.**

Overall, the event achieved CEELBAS's wider aims of:

- training multidisciplinary researchers and area specialists in generic and area-based research methods
- advancing the research agenda through a programme of broadly defined themes linked to postdoctoral and postgraduate research
- providing a fertile multidisciplinary academic environment for postgraduate and postdoctoral study that offers contact with a network of experts;
- identifying emerging needs of students through its research and training activities.

4. Outcomes

Please indicate the outcomes and 'value for money' of activities carried out.

The main outcomes of the event were:

- Raised awareness among the student body of the core CEELBAS themes and agenda
- Facilitated contact between masters-level students and staff between CEELBAS partner institutions
- Enhanced the profile of Area Studies approaches within REES
- Broadened students' understanding of interdisciplinary approaches
- Provided a forum for students to present their ideas, future research interests, and set the agenda for discussion
- Improved knowledge of career pathways within REES among the student body

5. Breakdown of total costs for workshops (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence)	
	£71.90
	£14.70
	£30.50
	£54.10
	£66.60
Postgraduate participation	
Travel for participants coming from outside of Oxford - Advance travel contributions to CEEBAS post graduate conference	£590.00
St Hughes College - Conferences - Accommodation Postgrad conference accommodation for speakers	£475.00
Wolfson College - Conferences - Meals & Subsistence Postgraduate conference dinner 17 March 2010	£936.25
Wolfson College - Conferences - Meals & Subsistence Postgraduate conference dinner 17 March 2010 wine	£282.60
St Anne's College - Conferences - Accommodation participants rooms for Postgraduate conference 17 March 2010	£537.03
St Antony's College - Conferences - Meals & Subsistence CEELBAS Post Graduate Conference 17-18 March 2010 tea/coffee	£312.00
Room/equipment hire	
Administration costs	
MBRSCQ0 CEELBAS graduate conference £300 REES administrator time	£300.00
Printing and publicity (including conference packs)	
MBRSCQ0 CEELBAS graduate conference for printing and publicity	£266.42
Other (please specify)	
Rapporteurs and write up costs for post-conference report	£131.20
	£131.20
Total expenditure	£4,199.50
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	£4,199.50

6. Breakdown of total costs for projects (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Staff costs	
Equipment/technical costs	
Administration costs	
Other (please specify	
Total expenditure	
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	

7. Dissemination and further research

Please give details of dissemination of the outcomes of the workshop/project and any further research planned.

The material from the Conference is available on Weblearn to Conference participants. It includes students' presentations, abstracts, podcasts and photographs. Access is restricted.

Students have also been invited to submit their research to *Slovo* Vol 22.2. *Slovo* is a fully refereed, twice-yearly journal, edited and managed by postgraduates of the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Eleanor Ryan, the Executive Editor of *Slovo*, was a participant at the conference.

The conference report has also been compiled, and is available on the Weblearn site

8. Signature and date

Applicant's signature

<i>CM Davis</i>
Date: <i>5/8/10</i>

Institutional authorisation (if required)

<i>V Noad</i>
Position: <i>Interim Head Resecond Accounts</i>
Date: <i>12.8.10</i>

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact

<i>CM Davis</i>
Date: <i>5/8/10</i>

This form must be accompanied by an invoice from the applicant's institution, supported by receipts or other evidence of the expenditure incurred.

Please send the completed form to: CEELBAS Administrator, SSEES, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT and by email to: ceelbas-network@ssees.ucl.ac.uk.

CEELBAS is a consortium of UCL,
University of Oxford and University of Birmingham



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