



REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Confidential

1. Lead Applicant

Surname	Harrison		
Forename	Mark		
Title	Professor		
Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Present appointment and employing institution

Professor of Economics, University of Warwick

Role in activity

Co-organizer

2. Activity details

Type and title of activity

CEELBAS Midlands Russian Seminar

Location

Universities of Birmingham and Warwick
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Date

From: October 2000	To: March 2010
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Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

The series consisted of four seminars, two at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies (Birmingham), and two at the Institute of Advanced Studies (Warwick), all with a multidisciplinary focus:

Wed., Nov. 4, 2009 (Birmingham)

Speaker: Lara Cook, School of Historical Studies, Newcastle

Title: Collegiality in the People's Commissariats 1917-20.

Wed., Dec. 2, 2009 (Warwick)

Speaker: Yoram Gorlizki, Department of Government, Manchester

Title: Too Much Trust: Regional Party Leaders and Political Networks under Brezhnev.

Wed., Feb. 3, 2010 (Birmingham)

Speaker: Robert Service, St Antony's College, Oxford

Title: Trotsky and the Bolshevik Revolutionary Project: Who Betrayed What?

Wed., Mar. 3, 2010 (University of Warwick)

Speaker: Alena Ledeneva, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL

Title: Open Secrets and Knowing Smiles: Reflections on Informal Power in Russia.

Two hours were allowed for presentation and discussion of each paper. Seminars were followed by a buffet for participants at which discussion continued.

Seminars were attended by:

Rowenna Baldwin (Warwick graduate student)

John Barber (Cambridge)

Lara Cook (Newcastle)

Ivan Gololobov (Warwick)

Yoram Gorlizki (Manchester)

Mark Harrison (Warwick)

Melanie Ilic (Gloucester)

Christoph Koenig (Warwick graduate student)

Alena Ledeneva (UCL)

Christoph Mick (Warwick)

Maureen Perrie (Birmingham)

Hilary Pilkington (Warwick)

Chris Read (Warwick)

Arfon Rees (Birmingham)

Robert Service (Oxford)

Jeremy Smith (Birmingham)

Yngvar Steinholt (Tromsø)

Elizabeth Waters (Westminster)

John Westwood (Birmingham emeritus)

And a number of other graduate students from the two institutions.

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 proposal aimed to contribute to the aims of CEELBAS by promoting the individual research interests of faculty and graduate students and also building research capacity in Russian and related area studies at Midlands universities.

There was a high level of discussion at each seminar, which easily filled the two hours available. The first seminar (Cook) involved presentation of a PhD chapter by a young upcoming scholar. The second and fourth involved presentation of work in progress or near completion: Gorlizki's paper is now forthcoming in *Slavic Review* and Ledeneva's paper will be a chapter in a monograph. The third presented Service's new and probably influential biography of Trotsky for discussion.

Attendance at seminars varied; a core of scholars attended all or three out of four seminars. The series therefore maintained the dialogue between Russia scholars at Birmingham and Warwick that the 2008/09 seminar made possible. Warwick scholars (all in discipline-based departments) valued the chance to get together on an area studies and language basis; Birmingham scholars (most from an area studies centre) welcomed the exposure to discipline based discussion. A number of postgraduate students also attended and took part. For many this was their first opportunity to participate in discussion at this level.

Historians continued to predominate in the audience, with smaller numbers of social scientists from economics, sociology, and political science. We had occasional visitors from beyond Warwick and Birmingham, but generally few participants came from further afield, unless specifically invited to present. This was despite the fact that our mailing list extended to Manchester in the north, Leicester in the east, and Bath to the south west.

4. Outcomes

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

In terms of value, the seminar continued the tradition of high level seminar discussion on Russia in the Midlands. Social events after the seminars were particularly important in maintaining and developing links between academics at Birmingham and Warwick. Birmingham and Warwick are close by and a great deal of communication can be achieved electronically, but face to face discussion remains invaluable to developing collaboration and capacity.

At a total cost of £451, the series came in well under budget. This was for several reasons: The one overseas invitation we issued fell through (Lennart Samuelson, based in Russia, accepted, then declined). All our speakers came from within England; only one took up the offer of overnight hospitality, and one did not wish to reclaim any expenses. Despite this, there was no compromise on quality – three of the speakers are of international standing and the fourth will be one day.

Taking these together, the value for money offered by the seminar should be considered very good.

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

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence)	240.40 41.70 ✓ 119.00 ✓ 0.00 79.70 ✓
Postgraduate participation	0.00
Room/equipment hire	0.00 ...
Administration costs	0.00
Printing and publicity (including conference packs)	0.00
Subsidy to post-seminar buffet	210.48 University of Birmingham 196.23 ✓ University of Warwick 114.25 ✓ Contributed by participants -100.00 ✓
Total expenditure	450.88
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	450.88

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26/7/10

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 first seminar (Cook) involved presentation of a PhD chapter by a young upcoming scholar. The second and fourth involved presentation of work in progress or near completion: Gorlizki's paper is now forthcoming in *Slavic Review* and Ledeneva's paper will be a chapter in a monograph. The third presented Service's new and probably influential *Trotsky* biography for discussion.

A website was created for the seminar under the Warwick Institute of Advanced Study website at <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/russiaseminar>. This website carried a mix of papers, abstracts, and other relevant reading for each meeting. These were made available to participants in advance. The website continues to attract visitors.

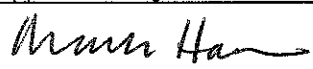
There were two further outcomes of discussion at the meetings:

Ledeneva, Harrison, and Smith gave talks to the annual conference of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies (Birmingham) in June at Cumberland Lodge (Windsor). Harrison and Smith were panellists on "Challenges to Central Planning in Post-War Socialist Economies." And Ledeneva gave the keynote address on "Why Russia Cannot Modernize."

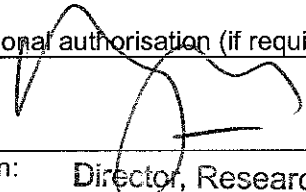
Second, Rees will prepare an application to continue the seminar next year in a new format.

8. Signature and date


Applicant's signature


Professor Mark Harrison
Date: July 15, 2010

Institutional authorisation (if required)


Position: Director, Research Support Services
Date: 26/7/10

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact


Professor Hillary Pilkington
Date: 19.7.2010

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.