

**Report on AWSS International Conference
on Women and Gender in Russia, 1914-1922
Urbana-Champaign, June 21-24, 2018**

Brought together by their shared interest in gender and women in Russian history, an international group of scholars gathered in June of 2018 at the Summer Research Lab, held every year by the Russian, East European and Eurasian Center (REEEC) at the University of Illinois. Conference participants spent two full days discussing twelve papers that will be published in 2020 as a volume in the series published by Slavica, *Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914-1922*. The attendees included both the authors of the pre-circulated papers, and up to twenty scholars attending the Summer Research Lab, who greatly enriched discussions with their varied disciplinary and regional perspectives. Enjoying both beautiful summer weather and the exceptional hospitality and support of REEEC and AWSS, all the participants collectively created a conference environment that was intellectually stimulating and mutually beneficial.

Topics ranged from the experiences of Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna during the war and 1917 Revolution to female journalists in the early Soviet period, and from the employment of women on Russia's railroads during the Great War to the challenges facing disabled veterans at the end of the Civil War. In addition to the rich variety of subjects, the conference was notable for its use of videoconferencing, which enabled authors from the United Kingdom and Russia who could not travel to Urbana-Champaign to present their papers in real time and join in the discussions of their work.

The diversity of topics notwithstanding, conference attendees identified several themes that emerged from this period of Russian history when viewed through the lens of gender. Participants noted, for example, the myriad new opportunities for women to exercise autonomy and agency; yet they simultaneously were relegated to – or often seem to have chosen --- apparently subsidiary, service roles. Women's strong sense of patriotic duty to the nation or the revolution competed with their duties to family in deteriorating economic conditions or to their religious faith, as explored in one paper on Orthodox women pilgrims. Several papers explored masculinity during this period, a topic well studied by historians of European combatants in the Great War but barely touched on for Russia.

The conference co-organizers and co-editors of the volume in preparation are Melissa Stockdale of the University of Oklahoma, AWSS Secretary, and Adele Lindenmeyr, Villanova University. Melissa and Adele invite AWSS members who are interested in learning more about the conference or contributing to this project to contact them directly at mstockdale@ou.edu or adele.lindenmeyr@villanova.edu.

Association for Women in Slavic Studies and the Russia's Great War and Revolution Project

Workshop on Gender and Women in Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914-1922

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, REECC Summer Lab

June 21-24, 2018

Participants

Session 1:

Dr. Galina Ulyanova, Institute of Russian History, Moscow (participating remotely), “The Empress Mother Maria Feodorovna during the Great War and Revolution”

Dr. Boris Kolonitsky, European University, St. Petersburg (participating remotely), “Керенский как «женщина»: Делигитимация политика в условиях революции”

Stuart D. Finkel, Dartmouth University/University of Florida, “Philanthropy, Politics, and Public Action: the ‘Several Lives’ of Ekaterina Peshkova in Revolutionary Russia.”

Discussant: Adele Lindenmeyr, Villanova University

Session 2:

Katy Turton, Queen's University, Belfast (participating remotely), “Gender, Memory and the February Revolution”

Christine Worobec, Northern Illinois University, “Lived Religion Gendered: Representations and Practices of Russian Orthodoxy”

Discussant: John Randolph, University of Illinois and Director, REECC

Session 3:

Denis Davydov & Olga Kozlova, Казанский государственный технический университет им. А.Н. Туполева (participating remotely), “Трансформация социального статуса сельской женщины в период 1914-1922 гг. (по материалам Казанской губернии”

Pavel Vasilyev, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (unable to attend; paper presented by Adrienne Harris), “Gendered Bodies on Trial: Exploring Litigation Strategies in the Early Soviet People's Court”

David Borgmeyer, St. Louis University, “Natalia Goncharova and the Avant-Garde's Take on Russia's Great War and Revolution”

Discussant: Ronald Bobroff, Oglethorpe University

Session 4:

Ronald Bobroff, Oglethorpe University, “Masculinity and July 1914: A Gendered Factor in Russia's Decision for War”

Steven Jug, Baylor University, “Reconnoitering Masculine Subjectivities among Soldiers, Officers, Guards, and Legionnaires on Russia’s Fronts, 1914-1921”

Discussant: Melissa Stockdale, University of Oklahoma

Session 5:

Tony Heywood, University of Aberdeen (unable to attend; paper presented by Adele Lindenmeyr), “Morals, Money, and Men: The Wartime Employment of Women on Imperial Russia’s Railways, July 1914–March 1917”

Katherine McElvanney, University of Cambridge/Queen Mary University of London, “Women and the Early Soviet Press, 1917–1922”

Discussant: Stuart D. Finkel, Dartmouth University/University of Florida