

From the Editor-in-Chief

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The present issue of *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* consists of two parts. It contains a special section “*Platforma: New Frontiers in Ukrainian Studies*,” which features two articles stemming from the 2017 Ukrainian Studies graduate student conference at the University of Kansas. Guest edited by Nathaniel Ray Pickett (University of Kansas), this section presents research in literature and political geography areas within the Ukrainian studies field: one of the contributions discusses the city of Slavutych and its citizens’ attempt to mitigate the effects of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster after Ukraine gained independence, while the other studies Soviet Ukrainian adventure literature for young adults. The second part contains three regular articles that bring up such diverse topics as language use and language attitudes of Ukrainian Canadians on the Prairies; the involvement of wealthy businessmen-politicians’ philanthropy foundations in the Ukrainian Maidan Protests of 2013-14; and translation of the Roman classics into Ukrainian in the late twentieth to early twenty-first centuries.

I continue to open EWJUS as a venue for publishing translations of historical works in Ukrainian studies to make them more accessible to the anglophone scholarly audience. Translations of two nineteenth-century texts are printed in this issue—Ukrainian philosopher and linguist Oleksandr Potebnja’s essay “Language and Nationality” and Vladimir Solov’ev’s essay on the philosophical works of his mentor, Ukrainian intellectual Pamfil Iurkevych. These translations have been prepared for publication by Marko Robert Stech (CIUS, Toronto Office, University of Alberta). As always, the issue presents reviews of recent books in Ukrainian studies. Finally, the issue offers an obituary for Mark Von Hagen (Arizona State University), a long-time champion of Ukrainian Studies, who recently passed away.

Our future publication plans include a special issue on Kharkiv (“Kharkiv: The City of Diversity”) and another on imperialism, colonialism, and famine stemming from the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium held in Kyiv in 2017. EWJUS also recently issued a [call for papers](#) for a special issue “Odesa: The City of Frontiers,” to be guest edited by Jessica Zychowicz and Volodymyr Kravchenko (CIUS, University of Alberta).

Interested colleagues are invited to submit an abstract of 300 words to Jessica Zychowicz (zychowic@ualberta.ca) by January 1, 2020.

I am pleased to report that EWJUS continues to enjoy stable growth. Our readership statistics show a steady increase, thanks to our inclusion two years ago in the Directory of Open Access Journals and the MLA Directory of Periodicals. Since my last report (April 2019), the journal's articles and reviews have been downloaded more than 14,000 times, in over 100 countries. This summer, EWJUS's site was upgraded to version 3 of the Open Journal Systems. This was the first major software upgrade for us, but I am delighted to report that it brought a more user-friendly and visually appealing interface, and a more intuitive interface for editorial workflow (especially for our numerous reviewers, for whose work and scholarly commitment I am very grateful). The only caveat that remains is the static version of the "Books for Review" page, as a proper plugin is being currently developed. We ask all potential colleagues interested in reviewing books for us to send a direct request via [email](#) to our book review editor Tania Stech (CIUS, Toronto Office, University of Alberta). In a couple of months, we hope to have in place a feature that allows interested parties to request books for review via the EWJUS site (as in the previous version).

In terms of new initiatives, I hope to launch an English-Ukrainian translation of EWJUS articles (as noted in a previous editorial) this fall, and to look into the inclusion of EWJUS in more databases and scholarly indices. EWJUS continues to co-operate with the CIUS's Contemporary Ukraine Studies Program (CUSP). We plan a new journal section, titled "Ukraine in the World," where a selection of CUSP-solicited articles of comparative nature will appear, as well as a thematic issue on Intermarium and the regional security in the Black Sea region, based on the round table discussion held in Kharkiv on 23 November 2018.

I thank the Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society (AFUES) for awarding funds to subsidize our publication this year. I am grateful to our guest editor Nathaniel Ray Pickett for his work on the thematic section of this issue, to Marko Robert Stech for providing and editing translations of the Ukrainian historical texts, and to our book review editor Tania Stech for her continuing contribution to the diversity and quality of the book reviews we publish. As always, I appreciate the careful work of our two copy-editors, Marcia Craig (Edmonton, AB) and Ksenia Maryniak (CIUS, University of Alberta), and our editorial assistant Cossette Massa (BA, MacEwan University; now pursuing an MA program at Ryerson University). I acknowledge Halyna Klid (CIUS, University of Alberta) for her attractive cover design.

Happy reading!

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