

# From the Editor-in-Chief

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**T**his issue of *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* features a special thematic section titled “Less Commonly Taught Slavic Languages: The Learner, the Instructor, and the Learning Experience in the Second Language Classroom (A North American Context).” Our guest editor for this section is Alla Nedashkivska (University of Alberta). The thematic section contains three articles and five field reports dedicated to theoretical and applied issues of learning and teaching Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian, as well as culture and folklore of these languages, to heritage speakers and second-language learners in North American classrooms. In addition to a special section, the present issue also contains two regular articles dedicated to the “Russian Spring” uprising in Ukraine in 2014 and the use of sexuality in Russian propaganda offensive during the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. As always, we feature our usual array of book reviews and a book review essay.

From August 2014 until September 2016, *EWJUS* was edited by Professor Oleh S. Ilnytskyj (University of Alberta). As of October 1, 2016, I have taken over as its new editor-in-chief. Following my predecessor’s efforts to increase *EWJUS*’s indexing through the use of DOI’s (digital object identifiers), I have applied for the inclusion of *EWJUS* in the Directory of Open Access Journals, which should facilitate our visibility and discovery even further.

I am pleased to report that *EWJUS* continues to enjoy growth. Since my predecessor’s report on this topic (volume III, no. 2), the registered users of our site have increased from 550 to about 600. Between August of 2014, when the inaugural issue of *EWJUS* appeared, and February of this year, the journal’s articles and reviews have been downloaded over 5,000 times from over 80 countries.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor, Oleh S. Ilnytskyj, for his guidance and support as I learned the ropes of a journal editor’s job, as well as our book review editor, Tania Stech (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Toronto), and our two copy-editors, Ksenia Maryniak (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta) and Marcia Craig. I am also grateful to my undergraduate student RA, Cossette Massa

(MacEwan University), for her formatting and referencing work for the journal, and to Halyna Klid (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta) for her cover design.

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