

<p><b>Institution: University College London</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: 27 - Area Studies</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>UCL's School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) is a multi-disciplinary department whose research is underpinned by a shared commitment to language-based area studies. At UCL, SSEES sits alongside and interacts with the two Faculties to which it is most closely related: Arts &amp; Humanities (A&amp;H) for research in languages and cultures, and Social &amp; Historical Sciences (SHS) for research in history, politics, sociology and economics. Links to the wider institutional research strategy come through our participation in UCL's cross-disciplinary Grand Challenges and the UCL European Institute. Beyond UCL, SSEES leads the Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS), an inter-university partnership launched in 2007 to develop multi-disciplinary, language-based research capacity around key research themes.</p> <p><b>Structures for research:</b> Until 2010, SSEES was organised on disciplinary lines in four sub-departments, each with a Head responsible to the Director for both teaching and research. In 2010, SSEES was restructured on functional lines to promote cross-disciplinary interaction, enhance the profile of research in departmental management, and streamline research planning and grant applications. Since then, two Heads of Teaching, respectively in charge of Programmes and Resources, have led UG and PGT provision across the disciplines. Three Heads of Research are responsible respectively for our doctoral programmes (Head of Postgraduate Research) and for the five SSEES research centres. The Head of Research in Social Sciences supervises the Centre for Comparative Economics (CCE) and the Centre for European Politics, Security and Integration (CEPSI). The Head of Research in Arts and Humanities supervises the Centre for Russian Studies (CRS), the Centre for the Study of Central Europe (CSCE) and the Centre for South-East European Studies (CSEES). Themselves members of the UCL Joint-Faculty Research Committee (A&amp;H and SHS), the SSEES Heads of Research are supported by SSEES Research Committee (a representative group of multi-disciplinary colleagues at all levels of seniority), by two Joint-Faculty Research Facilitators, and in financial matters by the SSEES Assistant Director and her Deputy.</p> <hr/> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p><b>Overall strategy.</b></p> <p>Our two main priorities since 2008 have been <b>to foster excellence in the academic disciplines represented at SSEES</b> (literature, film studies, history from the middle ages to the present day, politics, economics, anthropology and sociology) and <b>to develop innovative cross-disciplinary work</b> on the basis of the uniquely extensive constellation of area expertise concentrated in the new UCL SSEES building. UCL SSEES Library offers a resource of national significance; our location, our collective range of research interests, and our leading role in CEELBAS make UCL SSEES a natural national centre for the study of our area. We seek to recruit imaginative scholars, eager to cross conventional disciplinary boundaries and to develop both existing and emergent areas of interest. We manage staff workloads to maximise the benefits of the relationship between research and teaching, which involves cross-disciplinary elements for many UG and most PGT and PGR students. We manage our own conferences and publications, publishing original research from within SSEES and around the world. We continue to publish in the languages of the SSEES region, where our research is translated, cited and reviewed. And we reach out as never before to collaborators and partners across UCL, the UK and beyond. Meeting the needs of a wide variety of academic and non-academic interest groups, our research focuses not only on the individual languages and cultures of nation states in Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe, but also on transnational links across the region and on the centrifugal effects of fast-moving global developments on the region as a whole. Not the least of our research interests therefore lies in exploring the significance of 'area' in a rapidly changing world. Now that almost 25 years have passed since the collapse of communism, our area remains distinctive, shaped by its complex and varied cultural and geo-political heritage; however, its borders – both real and figurative – have become increasingly porous for people, commodities and ideas. This is the fluid international environment in which SSEES seeks to define its research strategy.</p> <p><b>In RAE2008</b> we signalled our intention to develop comparative, transnational research as a way of advancing knowledge and theory in the humanities and social sciences. One response to that challenge is 'New Horizons in Russia and Eastern Europe: A New Vision through Language-based</p>
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Area Studies' (2012-18), the UCL Mellon Programme led Aizlewood and Worton (UCL French) until their retirements in 2013. Another response came from the development of the CEELBAS network (e, below), also led by Aizlewood.

Our REF Impact Template and case studies show that we have fulfilled our intention to produce research capable of informing national and international policy; we kept our promise to encourage collaborative research and publication through enhanced internal funding incentives (see section d); and we almost doubled our external income, not least by refining mentoring (section d, below). All three selected research initiatives highlighted in RAE2008 led in this assessment period to further major awards for the researchers concerned: Leverhulme Major Research Fellowships for Bracewell and Rady, and multiple European Commission FP7 grants for Radošević.

We responded to concerns expressed by the RAE2008 panel that not all SSEES research centres operated at the same level by defining more carefully each centre's sphere of activity. The Centre for the Study of Economic and Social Change was reconfigured as the Centre for Comparative Economics (CCE), which has a clearer conceptual focus. Like CEPSI, the other main vehicle for social-science research at SSEES, CCE now offers a thriving forum for weekly seminar discussion and occasional workshops/roundtables, many available by podcast. Whereas both these centres focus on contemporary developments, CRS and CSCE, our two main vehicles for humanities research, organize seminars and conferences mostly on cultural and historical themes. CSEES operates a mixed mode, taking a multi-disciplinary approach to questions of borders and identity in a deceptively familiar area: the Balkans, past and present.

**Research Centres:** All five SSEES Research Centres have a two-fold purpose: to encourage the formulation of research agenda that transcend conventional disciplinary and geographical boundaries, and to provide an international intellectual forum for the development of these agenda. Outcomes include conferences and publications, both individual and collective. Since the boundaries between the centres are deliberately porous, several colleagues contribute to more than one and a number of thematic interests are shared across the UoA as a whole. For example: Beasley-Murray, Morrissey, Siemens and Zusi all work on aspects of political violence and the emotions in modern Europe, while Aleksov, Bogatyrev, Butterwick, Davidson, Dixon, Duncan, Hjelm and Milutinović all research aspects of religion since the middle ages. For purposes of clarity, however, each colleague is generally listed only once in the following outline:

**The Centre for European Politics, Security and Integration (CEPSI)** brings together scholars investigating three aspects in particular of the politics and sociology of post-socialist regimes. Focusing on elites in the Russian Federation, Ledeneva has developed her conceptualization of power networks and informal governance in a monograph on Putin's *sistema*, while Duncan has explored the dynamics of policy-making at the highest level in the Kremlin. The relationship between domestic politics and European integration is the Centre's second major theme, central to monographs by Mole on the discursive construction of identities in the Baltic region, and by Wilson, an expert on electoral manipulation who treats Belarus's geopolitical relations with Russia in his analysis of the Lukashenka regime. In a related vein, Ciutã has theorized the notion of security and its meaning in the context of the geopolitics of 'new Cold War'. Thirdly, Sikk and Hanley offer innovative quantitative analyses of party politics in the Baltic states and in the Czech and Slovak republics, where Hanley also has a research interest in old-age interest groups. A long-standing cluster in Baltic studies, sustained by Mole and Sikk, has been rejuvenated by Hjelm, a sociologist of religion now working on a new comparative project on youth street culture in Helsinki and London. With Hilson (UCL Scandinavian Studies), they launched the multi-disciplinary UCL Nordic/Baltic Research Group in 2008, which has maintained the series of biennial Baltic Symposia (2008, 2010, 2012) and hosted the 2010 ESRC seminar series, 'The Nordic and Baltic States in the European Political Imagination'. CEPSI's weekly seminars and workshops regularly attract an audience of journalists, diplomats and academics from other HEIs.

**The Centre for Comparative Economics (CCE)** fosters empirically grounded and theoretically informed comparative research on economic development and transition in the SSEES region. The centre's main clusters of investigation focus on technological innovation and entrepreneurship (Radošević: theories and systems of innovation, links between science and industry; Korosteleva: institutional determinants of new firm entry and start-up financing); on the controversial relationship between health, poverty and welfare (Gerry: mortality and privatization; Gerry and Nivorozhkin: ruralisation of poverty in Russia; Douarin: welfare in Kosovo); and on aspects of economic

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integration in the SSEES region and beyond (Manchin: import tariffs, cross-border mergers and acquisitions; Bruno and Nivorozhkin: labour markets). Makarova is an econometrician who specialises in forecasting inflation. Designed to help set the agenda for international research in the field, the Centre's Economic and Business Seminar Series integrates the work of SSEES's researchers, at both staff and postgraduate level, with a range of national and international economists, and with user-groups in both the private and public sectors.

**The Centre for South-Eastern European Studies (CSEES)** provides the forum for multi-disciplinary work on the construction of cultural and political identities in the Balkans. Competing constructions of Europe by the region's intelligentsia have been one major focus of investigation, explored on the basis of comparative literature in Milutinović's monograph on twentieth-century Serbian writers, and through travel literature by Bracewell, who completed her collaborative multi-volume AHRC project 'East Looks West: Eastern European Travel Writing on Europe, 1600-2000' and has embarked, with the support of the Leverhulme Trust, on a monograph of her own. Tensions between international standards of justice and national self-perceptions and ideologies underpin the second strand of the Centre's research, encapsulated in the title of Gordy's monograph on the aftermath of the Yugoslav wars. Gordy's political sociology of 'guilt, responsibility and denial' is complemented by anthropological work by Duijzings. Urban transformation, the focus of Duijzings's recent research, has generated essays on Bulgaria and the Balkans more generally. Aleksov combines the perspective of an historian of confessional and national identities in the region with his own experiences as an anti-war activist (see his 'Resisting the Wars in the Former Yugoslavia: Towards an Autoethnography', in *Resisting the Evil*, ed. B. Bilić and V. Janković (Baden-Baden, 2012)).

**The Centre for Russian Studies (CRS)** organizes regular seminars and conferences (see below) and remains the principal vehicle for research on Russian literature, history and culture across the ages. Its main focuses of interest are the history of monarchy since the fifteenth century (Bogatyrev: early-modern dynasticism; Dixon: Catherine II's court culture; Morrissey: subjects and citizens in revolutionary Russia); the political and cultural significance of Russian Orthodoxy (Bogatyrev: early-modern political icons; Davidson: the image of the prophet in literature; Dixon: the destabilizing role of the monastic elite in the late-imperial Church); aspects of visual culture in literature, history and society (Bogatyrev and Dixon: representations of power; Davidson: literature and art; Morrissey: commercial advertising); repression and terror in late imperial Russia (Young: narratives of imprisonment and exile; Morrissey: terrorism, the first fruits of her British Academy Research Development Award), mass politics and mass culture (Morrissey: 'the economy of nerves'; Roth-Ey: the mass media after Stalin; Willimott: the urban commune in revolutionary Russia); Soviet and émigré literature of the 1920s and beyond (Young, Rubins). The culture of Russian humour is explored in Graham's monograph. The CRS also hosts the flourishing cross-disciplinary **Russian Cinema Research Group** (Graffy, Cavendish, Graham, Morley, Roth-Ey). Cavendish's monograph, emphasizing the collaborative principle at the heart of the avant-garde Russian cinema, redefines the traditional attributes of cinematic innovation; Morley explores the relationship between literature and film; Graham extends the Group's geographical coverage to Tajikistan. Roth-Ey's prize-winning first monograph goes beyond the film industry to make a pioneering analysis of radio and television in the late Soviet period.

**The Centre for the Study of Central Europe (CSCE)** organized international symposia exploring contemporary political and intellectual reconfigurations (see below). The Centre's principal outputs nevertheless focused on the region's cultural inheritance. Major publications by the Centre's early-modern historians include the fifth and final volume of the *Decreta Regni Mediaevalis Hungariae*, ed. and trans Rady et al, supported by the British Academy. This prompted the Leverhulme Trust to support Rady to write a monograph on law and society in Hungary since the middle ages. Butterwick's monograph on politics and religion in the age of the Polish Revolution 1788-92, published in both English and Polish, is complemented by the revisionist collection, *Peripheries of the Enlightenment*. Jointly edited and solely introduced by Butterwick, this includes chapters by him on Poland and on Russia by Dixon. They are now collaborating on a study of competing attempts to reinforce, bridge, and traverse the fault-line between Eastern and Western Christendom in the 18th and 19th centuries, with reference to state policies towards religion. In addition to developing their joint interest in the politics of dissent, Beasley-Murray and Zusi continue to publish on aspects of European modernism. Critics of modernism are the subject of monographs on *Völkerpsychologie* by Klautke, and on Horst Wessel by Siemens, the Francis Carsten DAAD

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lecturer. A series of articles by Haynes on Codreanu and Romanian fascism complements *In the Shadow of Hitler* (ed. Haynes and Rady, 2010), a volume of papers from the 2006 CSCE series on 'Personalities of the Right in interwar Central and Eastern Europe'.

**Publication and conferences:** Our major publishing focus is on the two international journals edited at SSEES. *Slavonic and East European Review (SEER)* (ed. Rady, for the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA)) and *Central Europe* (eds Klautke and Zusi) combine the fruits of international scholarship with special issues designed to bring our research to the widest possible readership. Papers from the 2006 CRS conference, 'The Re-launch of the Soviet Project, 1945-1964', constituted the first special issue to appear in *SEER* (ed. Fürst, Jones, Morrissey, 2008); the 2011 CRS conference, 'Trust and Distrust in the Soviet Union', funded by the British Academy, followed in *SEER* (ed. Hosking, 2013). Between these came a double-issue, 'Personality and Place in Russian Culture' (ed. Dixon, *SEER*, 2010), celebrating the work of the late Lindsey Hughes. The proceedings of 'Liberty, Power and Identity in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania' (2009), a CSCE conference organized in partnership with the Lithuanian Historical Institute, Vilnius, and the Lithuanian Embassy in London, were edited by Butterwick in *Central Europe* (2010). Further SSEES international conferences included 'SOLIDARITY/ solidarities' (CSCE, 2009), the inaugural event of the 'Children of the Revolution 1989-2009' season co-ordinated by the Polish Cultural Institute in London in collaboration with UCL, the Tate Modern and the Victoria & Albert Museum; 'Diasporas Cosmopolitanism' (CEPSI, 2010), staged with CEELBAS and published as *East European Diasporas, Migration and Cosmopolitanism* (ed. Ziemer and Roberts, Routledge, 2010); and 'The Art of the Impossible: Culture, Philosophy and Dissent from Havel to today' (CSCE, 2013), co-funded with the UCL European Institute. SSEES also publishes its own refereed book series, Studies in Russia and Eastern Europe, featuring, for example, the products of collaborative research initiatives with the Hungarian Cultural Centre, London (*Resistance, rebellion and revolution in Hungary and Central Europe: commemorating 1956*, ed. Peter and Rady 2008); the Anglo-French Russian Studies Network (*Loyalties, Solidarities and Identities in Russian Society, History & Culture*, ed. Bullock, Rubins et al, 2013); and the Romanian Academy of Sciences (*Government and Law in Medieval Moldavia, Transylvania and Wallachia*, ed. Rady and Simon, 2013).

**Knowledge exchange:** In collaboration with CEELBAS, whose knowledge transfer strand was led by Ledeneva until 2011, we have forged close relationships with Chatham House, the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), whose annual report is launched at a dedicated meeting of the CCE Economics and Business Seminar Series. The weekly SSEES Post-Soviet Press Group, founded by Hosking in 1988 and now chaired by Duncan, covers a wide range of topics relating to Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States, Moldova, the Caucasian states and Central Asia. Guests included N.V. Levichev, leader of 'A Just Russia' parliamentary group in the Russian State Duma (2008), Vladimir Pastukhov, Institute of Law and Public Policy, Moscow (2010), and the Russian dissident poet Yuri Kublanovskii (2012). Since 280 national and international e-mail addresses receive its minutes, the Group's virtual membership is much larger than the average weekly attendance of thirty. We also cultivate links with the London embassies of the region, which regularly co-sponsor roundtables featuring figures such as Nobel prize-winner Martti Ahtisaari (SSEES 2008 Kosovo roundtable) and former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (2010 'The Ties that Bind' symposium). Gordon Bajnai (2012), former Prime Minister of Hungary, lectured in conjunction with the European Parliament's London office. Two CSCE international symposia, sponsored by the London embassies of the Central and Eastern European states and attended by the ambassadors themselves, interrogated the region's place in current global developments: 'Beyond the Old and New Europe' (2011), and 'Europe: Then and Now' (2013) (Beasley-Murray and Zusi).

**Future strategy:** We aim to maintain our flourishing commitment to conferences and publications, ensuring that SSEES conferences reach an international readership while some of the best international conferences are published in *SEER*. Papers from 'Trust and Distrust in the Eastern Bloc and the Soviet Union, 1956-1991' (CRS, 2013), a conference co-funded by SSEES with the Marie Curie Trust and UCL Grand Challenges, have already been accepted by the leading Russian journal, *Neprikosnovennyi zapas*; papers from the CCE international workshop on 'Transition Economics meets New Structural Economics' (2013) are under review for the *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*. In 2015 *SEER* will publish a special issue on Russian environmental history stemming from a conference organized by Oldfield (Glasgow) in St Petersburg in 2013.

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We aim **to develop** our flexible approach to the SSEES Research Centres, adapting them to changing needs, and using them increasingly as a vehicle to promote and refine our own emergent research projects in collaboration with external expertise. In the vanguard of this development is the 2013-14 CSCE seminar series, 'Constraints upon Rulership in the Age of Magna Carta'.

We aim **to enhance** our commitment to innovative, multi- and cross-disciplinary work by sustaining and advancing our existing national collaborations with the partners listed above and adding to them where possible. In particular, we seek to grow our international partnerships via the increasingly broad range of contacts made through CEELBAS (led, going forward, by Milutinović) and through institutional agreements such as the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding between UCL and Moscow Higher School of Economics (HSE) (see section e, below). Increased scholarly mobility in the region can be expected to play an important part here (see section c.1), and is itself the subject of research by Szostek (2013-15) on the UCL Mellon Programme led, going forward, by Bracewell. The celebration of SSEES's centenary in 2015 will allow us not only to reflect on the UoA's contribution to language-based area studies in the past, but also to try to anticipate the changing nature of 'area' in the future.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

**Overall strategy:** We seek to attract, foster and retain scholars of outstanding distinction or promise. While continuing to value longstanding traditions of individual disciplinary scholarship, we also seek to recruit researchers eager to cross disciplinary boundaries, within and beyond UCL, and outside academia. Recruitment strategy is agreed at SSEES Planning Committee, a representative group of multi-disciplinary colleagues at all levels of seniority whose priorities include reinforcing areas of existing expertise and identifying emergent areas of interest. We encourage research-active emeriti to remain actively engaged. For example, Hosking, Wigzell and McMillin all contribute regularly to the CRS: the last sits on the *SEER* editorial board; the others have research expenses, desks and IT facilities in the open-plan Research Room which links the generations at SSEES (see d. below).

**Sustainability:** Following a period of intensive regeneration in 2001/8 – when 13 leavers (including 7 professors) were replaced by 15 new appointees, all but one at lecturer level – 2008/13 has been a period of development in which 16 submitted colleagues were promoted at UCL. Of the senior lecturers and readers in RAE2008, 5 were awarded chairs in this assessment period (Bracewell, Butterwick, Ledeneva, Milutinović, Morrissey); 8 of the 11 lecturers promoted to SL or Reader (Beasley-Murray, Ciută, Gerry, Graham, Hanley, Korosteleva, Makarova, Mole, Rubins, Sikk and Wilson), were appointed in 2001-8. A natural degree of mobility saw two professors retire (Kolankiewicz, Deletant); another relocated (Mickiewicz), as did a lecturer (Jones). Aizlewood (Director from 2006) took early retirement through ill-health in 2013. In their place, we have kept the accent on early career researchers by recruiting at entry level in areas of existing strength (Morley: Russian cinema) and emergent interest (Bruno: institutional economics and corporate governance; Douarin: development and agricultural economics). Strategic research leadership was replenished by the appointment of Dixon (Russian history).

**Equal opportunities:** A distinctive feature of our research culture is the diversity of our international profile, itself the product of our global recruitment strategy: 8 of the 40 submitted staff are natives of the SSEES region; 10 more come from outside the UK. Of the promoted professors, only 2 are British, one of whom was born in Australia and educated in the USA. Selection panels for all appointments are representative in terms of seniority, gender and ethnicity. Half the newly-appointed colleagues and all the UCL Mellon Fellows are female; so are 3 of the promoted professors, giving a total of 4 out of 10 (the HESA national average in 2011/12 was 20.5 per cent). SSEES therefore fully endorses UCL policy which requires that at all stages of staff progression – recruitment, selection, training, appraisal, development and promotion – the only consideration must be that the individual meets the requirements of the post. No-one is disadvantaged by ill health, part-time status, or maternity/paternity. An example is the additional term of research leave granted on return after maternity leave (Korosteleva; Manchin; Roth-Ey).

**Career progression:** Biennial staff appraisal (annual for probationary staff and professors) defines individual research plans, sets objectives and monitors progress in accordance with UCL procedures designed to identify and reward talent fairly and transparently at all levels. SSEES Management Committee annually reviews all non-professorial staff, including those who have not

put themselves forward for promotion, so that the reticent are not disadvantaged.

**Research support:** We encourage colleagues to teach to their research strengths within curricula that maintain breadth of coverage for students; we manage their workloads to protect research time. Where appropriate, we employ teaching fellows and postgraduate teaching assistants (PGTAs), e.g. to cover research, maternity or other leave. Lighter teaching and administrative loads for probationers support early career researchers. (For financial support, see d below.) Leave continues to be a primary form of support for all disciplines: 28 staff took a total of 82 terms' leave in this period. The standard allowance (one year after seven or one term after nine) may be adjusted to take account of individual projects and SSEES's overall research strategy. Colleagues are encouraged to apply for externally funded leave outside the normal cycle.

**Major research fellowships** were awarded to 3 of SSEES's 11 historians: Bracewell (Leverhulme, 2009-11), Rady (Leverhulme, 2010-12), and Morrissey (BARDA, 2009-11). Milutinović (2008-9), Duncan (2009-10), and Ledeneva (2010) also won Leverhulme Fellowships.

**Competitively funded postdoctoral researchers** regularly refresh the research centres and contribute to teaching on an appropriate scale. Since 2012, SSEES has offered an open competition for applicants to Leverhulme and the British Academy, a strategy that proved successful for Willimott, UEA (Leverhulme, 2012-15) and Marsden, Oxford (British Academy, 2013-16). Further fellowships were won from Marie Curie Foundation (Tikhomirov, 2011-13), Ukraine Ministry of Education and Science (Kostyuchenko, 2013), and ESRC (Wulf, 2007-8; Mathivet, 2007-9; Ziemer, 2009-11; and Moser, 2012-13). Successive Alexander Nash Fellows for Albanian Studies (Halili, Hysa), joined three fellows appointed to two successive strands of the UCL Mellon Programme, funded by the Mellon Foundation: Zhou (literature and politics, 2009-11), on 'Translations/Transpositions' (2006-12); Koycheva (demography and anthropology, 2012-14) and Szostek (language, media and international scholarly exchange, 2013-15) on 'New Horizons in Russia and Eastern Europe: A New Vision through Language-based Area Studies' (2012-18).

**International exchange** introduces foreign scholars to the UK research culture and acquaints staff with the best international practice. Incoming postdoctoral fellowships, supported until 2004 by the FCO, are now funded by SSEES through 3-month visits co-sponsored by the governments of Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania. Mentored by SSEES staff, fellows contribute to the relevant Research Centre and are encouraged to publish in a journal edited at SSEES (e.g. Seppel, *SEER*, 2011). In turn, SSEES staff competed successfully for the following fellowships abroad: Humboldt Fellowships for Experienced Researchers (Rubins: Paris, 2008-9; Beasley-Murray: Freiburg, 2009-10; Mole: Berlin, 2011-12); ESRC/SSRC Collaborative Visiting Fellowship (Ciută: Johns Hopkins, 2010); Visiting Erasmus Mundus Fellowship (Gerry: Moscow HSE, 2011). Gerry was Visiting Fellow at the International School of Economics, Tbilisi (2011-12); Manchin at the Vienna Institute of International Economic Studies (2012-13), Nivorozhkin at the Centre for European Studies, Jagiellonian University (2013). Rady was guest Visiting Professor at ELTE, University of Budapest (2011); Radošević has been Research Professor at Halle Institute of Economic Research since 2012.

**The world beyond academia** offers opportunities for mutual engagement which we welcome and encourage. Wilson was seconded to the European Council for Foreign Relations (2008-10); writer Tony White (2008-9) and film director Rastko Novaković (2010) held Leverhulme Trust residencies at SSEES. Ledeneva is a trustee of the John Smith Memorial Trust; Gerry was a trustee of the BEARR Trust between 2009 and 2011.

## ii. Research students

**Recruitment and sustainability:** We seek to place UCL SSEES in a strong position to continue to recruit doctoral candidates of the highest quality. Recruitment is underpinned by SSEES's breadth of supervisory expertise, by its several pathways (MPhil/PhD, 1- and 2-year MRes programmes), and by its continued ability to fund PG research. Supported by CEELBAS until 2010, PG research has since been sustained by AHRC as part of BGP1 (3-4 studentships annually) and by ESRC (2 studentships). SSEES invests in its own annual Foundation Scholarship to support 3 years' doctoral research, in several fees-only scholarships each year (primarily to support EU students who are ineligible for full Research Council funding), and in annual Excellence Scholarships to assist students writing up (16 awards made between 2008 and 2013, with an annual average expenditure of £9k). Bequests from Lindsey Hughes and Victor Swoboda fund scholarships in Russian and Ukrainian studies. The UCL Bonnard-Braunthal Scholarship, which seeks to combat

intolerance, was held by two SSEES students in the assessment period with a third going forward: Godzisz (2013-16) supervised jointly by Mole and McCrae (UCL Laws). PGR students in the humanities may also apply for UCL Wolfson Scholarships, held in 2013-16 by Ellison, jointly supervised by Beasley-Murray and Ireland (UCL French). Indicative of future sustainability on a wider scale is SSEES's part in the UCL ESRC/AHRC Multidisciplinary Studentship scheme and our successful application to BGP2 as part of two consortia: the Doctoral Training Partnership between UCL, KCL and the School of Advanced Study (£18m total over five years), and the multi-centred CEELBAS Centre for Doctoral Training (£2.5m total over five years).

**Supervision, monitoring and skills development:** All PGR students are assigned to 1st and 2nd supervisors (in cross-disciplinary projects, joint supervision is also possible). After one year, students are expected to upgrade from MPhil to PhD having presented a literature review and sample chapter (each of 10,000 words) to a panel usually chaired by the Head of PGR. Supervisors' six-monthly progress reports are monitored by the Head, who reports to SSEES Research Committee and intervenes promptly in case of difficulty. With Economics, Interdisciplinary Area Studies at SSEES was one of only two official pathways formally recognized by ESRC in its grant for the UCL ESRC Doctoral Training Centre. Area Studies is similarly prominent in the ESRC/AHRC Multidisciplinary Studentship scheme. UCL Graduate School offers all our PGR students a wide range of courses in transferable skills and professional formation from which they must build a portfolio including at least 20 hours of skills training each year. Where appropriate, students may also receive methodology training through the MRes programme. They have access to language training at SSEES and to workshops co-ordinated by CEELBAS (see e below). Discipline-driven courses and workshops (e.g. 'Qualitative Research Interviewing') are now dedicated to SSEES PGR students and we intend their number and range to increase. Supported in these ways, 59 doctoral students successfully completed their degrees between 2008 and 2013.

**Equal opportunities:** SSEES complies fully with UCL procedures under which students may interrupt their study in order not to be disadvantaged by ill health or maternity (e.g. Perrin). Recruitment to scholarships is governed by the same standards of fairness and transparency as staff recruitment. Of the 59 doctorates awarded, 5 were Overseas Students, 18 EU, and 36 Home.

**Integration into the research culture.** SSEES PGR students engage with all parts of the research process and culture, from the formulation of research questions to final publication. They are vital participants in the SSEES Research Centres to which they graduate from seminar series of their own. SSEES sponsors an annual international PGR conference, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, organized by students and held alternately at SSEES and at HEIs in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2012, participants came to SSEES from more than 50 international HEIs. The refereed postgraduate journal *Slovo*, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, is edited by PGR students with staff support. PGR students also serve on the board of *Central Europe* and are invited to review for *SEER*.

**Teaching:** SSEES regularly advertises teaching opportunities for PGR students and offers training support to all its PGTAs. Thirteen of them, mentored by SSEES staff, completed the new UCL PGTA training scheme in 2012-13, more than in any other UCL department. Gerry contributed to the design and supervision of the scheme, which is nationally recognised by the HEA.

**Beyond academia:** While at UCL, PGR students are encouraged, where appropriate, to gain experience of the world beyond. Wade was seconded part-time to BIS (2013) to work on science and innovation policy. Macarie (Migration and Communities Forum, London), Vaiciunas (Borderland Centre and College of Eastern Europe), and Wunsch (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy) all competed successfully in the CEELBAS Internships Scheme launched in 2012. Perrin and Sokolić spoke with their supervisor, Gordy, to victims and veterans at the REKOM Forum for Transitional Justice in the Post-Yugoslav Countries (Sarajevo, 2013). Rebmann (2010-14), supervised by Korosteleva, holds a UCL Impact Scholarship for research on trust and enterprise.

**Conference presentation.** Co-funded by SSEES, UCL, CEELBAS, Royal Historical Society, German Studies Association and other learned societies, PGR students regularly present at conferences including BASEES, ASEEES, International Medieval Congress, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow), Social History Society. Nicholson and Rock co-organised successive conferences for History Lab, a national PGR network based at the Institute of Historical Research.

**Destinations.** SSEES doctoral students graduating between 2008 and 2013 were appointed to lectureships in Russian (Shaw, Bristol; Smith, St. Andrews (d. 2013)); Yugoslav Literature (Obradović, Toronto); History (Baker, Hull; Gray, Keele; Wojnowski, Nazarbayev); Political Science

(Pozo-Martin, KCL); Economics (Amini, London Metropolitan). A further 10 gained postdoctoral research positions in 8 HEIs, including Cambridge (3), Oxford, Toronto, Prague, Bucharest, Leicester, LSE and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. 11 students who graduated in the period have already published their theses; Baker won the BASEES Blazyca Prize, 2010.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

**Research infrastructure and facilities:** Since 2005, UCL SSEES has occupied purpose-built accommodation whose central-London location permits easy access for national and international visitors and ready communication with the embassies of the SSEES region. Key features of the new building are the distribution of office space, which encourages interaction between colleagues of different disciplines, and the open-plan Research Room, which accommodates 20 postdoctoral researchers, research-active emeriti, and international visiting fellows. Also hosting the UCL European Institute, the SSEES building provides facilities for conferences of <40 delegates; larger conferences are held in neighbouring UCL lecture theatres, all equipped with the latest technology.

**UCL SSEES Library,** situated at the heart of the new building, is the largest open access collection on the region in the UK, holding almost 400,000 print volumes plus 220 archive collections and a unique audio-visual collection created by (and maintained in close collaboration with) Graffy. Most of these are housed in the SSEES building, designed to hold c.250,000 volumes on open access, a rare books and archive store, and a video streaming facility. Since moving to the new building, the Library has trebled its occupancy rates. 12 carrels are reserved for SSEES PGR students, allocated a month at a time. In recognition of the Library's national role, BASEES is represented on SSEES Library Committee. 60 PhD students and 91 staff from outside UCL are registered as readers, including 8 staff and 7 research students from abroad. Attracted by a web catalogue funded by Follett in the mid-1990s, archive readers in the assessment period have come from across the SSEES region and also from USA, Canada, and Western Europe. Thanks to significant investment in e-resources since 2008, researchers now have access to major new business databases such as *Datastream* and *Amadeus*, and also to *Eastview*, CEEOLO and BBC Monitoring, numerous collections of historical material digitized by Brill, and a comprehensive set of digital resources on Russian cinema, unmatched in the UK. Continuing its successful record of external funding, SSEES Library was a partner in the major EU project EuropeanaTravel, which enabled the digitization of large parts of our rare book and historic map collections, plus parts of the Arthur Evans and Margaret Hasluck image collections, now available through UCL Digital Library and Europeana. Two members of the SSEES Library staff are responsible for IT support for SSEES as a whole.

**Organisational infrastructure supporting research:** To compensate for RCUK's withdrawal of most of the small grants that sustain research in our disciplines, SSEES increased its responsive-mode funding mechanisms in 2010 so that all research-active staff now control their own individual budgets (for archival visits, conference attendance and publication costs) and compete annually to fund collaborative, cross-disciplinary and impact-related projects, research assistance, the purchase of databases, conferences and workshops, beginning with 'Speaking Subjects: Theory and Practice of Oral History in the Eastern Bloc' (CRS, 2011). Investments in these larger projects totalled over £98k (2010-13). Managed by the Director and the Heads of Research in consultation with major grant winners, this funding has supported strategic aims by enabling the international collaboration with Moscow HSE, co-funding externally-supported activities (including 4 international conferences/workshops), and contributing to research projects by 7 colleagues.

**Strategies for generating grant income:** Applications for internal funding act as a rigorous formative experience for external grant applications. The Heads of Research monitor grant opportunities and take a pro-active approach with colleagues. All external applications are mentored by the Director, the Heads, and a panel of major grant winners supported by the Faculty Research Facilitators. Mock interviews are held for shortlisted candidates. Financial aspects of all applications and grants are supported by SSEES's Assistant Director and her Deputy.

**Generation of research income:** In an increasingly competitive environment, SSEES almost doubled its research income in this assessment period, securing over £3.3m from major external funding bodies, £1.6m more than in RAE2008. In 2012, the European Commission (EC) awarded its largest social science grant (total fEC10.4m euro) to the FP7 network project, ANTICORRP, led at SSEES by Ledeneva. Maintaining his record of continuous EC funding since 2000, Radošević won 3 FP grants in this period (AEGIS, KEINS, and GRINCOH) and a Network Excellence project

(PRIME). In addition to the major fellowships and postdoctoral fellowships listed at c.1, above, grants were awarded by the British Academy, the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC, the North Central London Research Consortium, and the Medical Research Council. Butterwick was supported by a grant of £3k from Jagiellonian University, not reported by HESA. Hjelm's research on youth street culture in London and Helsinki is sponsored by the leading Finnish newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat* – further evidence of SSEES's intention and ability to diversify its funding portfolio.

#### e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

##### Mechanisms to promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research:

**Beyond UCL**, CEELBAS, led from SSEES in collaboration with 9 other UK HEIs, meets the strategic need to build UK capacity to understand, inform and respond to regional developments by shaping the research agenda. Initially funded as part of the UK Funding Councils' LBAS Initiative by AHRC, ESRC and HEFCE (total £5.6m, 2006-11), CEELBAS has been funded since 2012 by AHRC and the British Academy. The network in total supported some 61 collaborative projects on key research themes in 2008-13, and a further 32 knowledge exchange roundtables, workshops and conferences in association with representatives of EBRD, the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, Chatham House, FCO and others. SSEES staged the keynote conference 'Research without Frontiers: inter-university cooperation in East European area Studies' (2011). Of the CEELBAS research themes based at SSEES, 'Cities and Urban Experiences in East Central Europe' stimulated exhibitions curated by Duijzings in collaboration with UCL Urban Laboratory; 'Health and Welfare in Eastern Europe' built on work on health in Russia (Gerry) and research on sexual attitudes and lifestyles among London's East Europeans (Gerry and Mole, 2007-9), an interdisciplinary project drawing on epidemiology, politics, economics, sociology and the study of sexuality, funded by the Medical Research Council and based jointly at SSEES and the UCL Centre for Sexual Health and HIV research. Gordy, Aleksov and Hysa visited CEU (Budapest) and Gerry visited HSE (Moscow) under the International Research Visits scheme launched by CEELBAS in 2013. The partnership formed in 2011 between UCL and Moscow HSE provided a mechanism for staff exchange in health economics and for joint workshops on 'Law, Freedom and Justice in Russian History' (SSEES 2012; Moscow 2013) involving colleagues at all levels of seniority from postdoc (Willimott) to emeritus (Hosking).

**Within UCL**, Grand Challenges gather concentrations of expertise from across the institution and beyond to address key global problems. SSEES contributes to the management of 'Human Wellbeing' (Gerry) and 'Intercultural Interactions', for which Beasley-Murray inspired strands of inquiry on 'dissent' and 'empathy'. He and Zusi work with UCL German on 'Medical inhumanities'.

**At SSEES**, examples of cross-disciplinary research promoted by the Research Centres include Beasley-Murray and Zusi (literature, philosophy); Bracewell (travel literature, cultural history); Davidson, Morley, and Zusi (literature, visual culture, aesthetics); Duijzings (anthropology, urban studies); Gerry and Mole (economics, sociology, public health, gender studies); Graham (literary theory, cultural history); Korosteleva and Radošević (economics, business); Gordy and Ledeneva (politics, sociology); Milutinović (comparative literature, cultural history); Roth-Ey (history, media studies). The Centres also reach out to national and international collaborators: SSEES hosts the Forum on Early-Modern Central Europe (Butterwick) in collaboration with Oxford and SOAS; of the 44 members of the SSEES Russian Cinema Research Group in 2012-13, 20 were affiliated to other UK HEIs and 11 more came from Europe and USA.

**Successful national and international partnerships:** Through Ledeneva, SSEES leads the 21-strong consortium for FP7 ANTICORPP with partners in Gothenburg, Berlin and Florence. Through his four EC-funded projects, Radošević collaborated with colleagues in over 40 international institutions and published with Woodward (Edinburgh) and Lepori (Lugano). He is editing a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Economic Policy Reform* with Berglöf (Chief Economist, EBRD) and Lin (Beijing), formerly Chief Economist of the World Bank. Gerry's collaboration with Davis (Oxford) was supported by the Nuffield Foundation. Bracewell's multi-volume AHRC project, 'East looks West', was completed in collaboration with Drace-Francis (Amsterdam) and an international team of scholars. Following the British Academy's support for his multi-volume edition and translation of *The Laws of the Medieval Kingdom of Hungary*, completed with Bak and Banyó (Budapest), Rady is now researching Croatian law with Karbić (Zagreb). Butterwick is a participant in the [Polish] National Science Centre's ongoing collective project, 'Political discourses of the Commonwealth of the Two Nations in dialogue with European Tradition'.

**Collaborative arrangements for PGR training** provided by CEELBAS include ethics workshops, launched at SSEES in 2009; the Russian Archives Training Scheme; digital humanities training in collaboration with UCL Digital Humanities (2013); and media and publishing training through our editorial partnership with openDemocracy (2013).

**Contribution to the discipline:** UCL SSEES continues to make an outstanding contribution to its various disciplines and to area studies in the UK, Central and Eastern Europe, and the USA. We have been widely represented among the **editors of leading international journals**, including *Kwartalnik Historyczny* (Butterwick, deputy editor); *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* (Graffy, co-editor); *KinoKultura* (Graham, co-editor); *The Journal of Religion in Europe* (Hjelm, co-editor); *Eastern European Politics and Society* (Bracewell; co-editor); *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* (Morrissey, associate editor); *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* (Bogatyrev and Dixon, associate editors); *Industrial and Corporate Change* (Radošević, associate editor). These and 11 further colleagues sit on the editorial or advisory boards of *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*; *Czech Sociological Review*; *Dostoevsky Studies*; *European Security*; *East European Politics*; *Innovation and Development*; *Knjiženstvo*; *Nations and Nationalism*; *Politička misao*; *Političke perspektivy*; *Ricerche Slavistiche*; *Romanian Journal of Political Science*; *Slovo a smysl*; and *Solanus*. Duncan joined the Editorial Committee for the BASEES/Routledge series on Russian and East European Studies; Bogatyrev and Milutinović served as editors of two Brill monograph series; Dixon was general editor of the three-volume Blackwell History of Russia (2008-11) and co-edits the OUP monograph series 'Oxford Studies in Modern European History'.

**Contributions to peer review** are also extensive. Bracewell served on the AHRC Peer College, Gerry on ESRC Grant Review Board. 7 further colleagues reviewed projects for AHRC, 5 for ESRC. Staff served as peer-reviewers for Leverhulme (3); National Endowment for the Humanities, USA (2); European Science Foundation (2); Czech Science Foundation (2); AXA Research Fund (1); Israel Science Foundation (1). Aleksov and Gordy reviewed projects for the Ministries of Education in Serbia and Croatia; Butterwick for the (Polish) National Science Centre; Duijzings for the Austrian Science Fund, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Croatian Science Foundation and the Romanian National Council for Scientific Research (UEFISCDI). Rady reviewed projects for national Science Foundations in Austria and Hungary.

**Leading contributors to research advisory and review boards** include Dixon, Advisory Panel for the Philip Leverhulme Prizes in History (2008, 2010) and AHRC History Focus Group (2012); Rady, UEFISCDI post-doctoral grant-awarding panel; Ledeneva, Expert Committee for Russia's National Prize in Applied Economics (2011). In 2012, Makarova was among the referees for the Russian Academy of Sciences 'Young economists of the year' prizes, and Davidson judged the Academia Rossica prize for literary translation.

**Leading positions in professional associations and learned societies** include MHRA (Rady; Director and Trustee; Council 1998-); Royal Historical Society (Dixon, Council, 2010-13); BASEES (Graham and Sikk [conference committee], and Young, national secretary 2009-12); European Association for Comparative Economic Studies (Korosteleva, secretary 2008-10; Gerry, secretary 2010-11). Young is the British Representative to the International Dostoevsky Society (2009-).

**Lectures, conferences, examination, peer review:** As is to be expected of a major research unit, SSEES staff regularly deliver invited lectures and conference papers, including keynotes at BASEES by Bracewell (2011) and Dixon (2013); at the International Neighbourhood Symposium, 'The Black Sea Region in Focus', Ciutã (2011); and the BEARR Trust Annual Lecture (Ledeneva, 2013). All submitted staff are regularly involved in peer-review for major international journals. 19 colleagues have acted as external examiners of 61 doctoral theses, 13 of them international. In 2009, Dixon co-organized the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Study Group on Eighteenth-Century Russia (Durham), published as *History and Literature in Eighteenth-Century Russia* (ed. Bogatyrev, Dixon, Hartley, 2013), and Morrissey co-organized an international conference on suicide (Maynooth), published as a special issue of the *Journal of Social History* (2013).

**Prizes and honours:** Rady was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Karoli University, Budapest (2013). Dixon's *Catherine the Great* was shortlisted for the 2009 Longman-History Today Book of the Year Prize; Roth-Ey's *Moscow Prime Time* received an honourable mention for the ASEES W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize and was declared Best Book in Literary Studies 2012 by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.