



inflections

A newsletter devoted to diversity and opportunity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, published by the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies

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The Duke-UNC Slavic and East European Language Resource Center

The Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies has recently begun collaborating on an exciting new joint project- a Slavic and East European Language Resource Center (SEELRC)- funded by a grant from Title VI of the U.S. Department of Education. SEELRC represents a unique vision for a Language Resource Center (LRC) in that its efforts focus on meeting the needs of instructors and students of the languages of our world region.

The cardinal purpose of SEELRC will be to improve the national capacity to teach and learn Slavic and East European Languages through a variety of projects, including teacher training, research, material and technology development, and the establishment of a sophisticated, easily accessible information and dissemination network.

The strategy of the proposed plan is

to exploit the existing linguistic similarities of Eastern Europe and Eurasia to address the peculiar needs of this region, particularly as they relate to the enhancement of curricula in the U.S. The languages of our region have traditionally been underrepresented in the development of teaching materials, and technological support for the development of computerized materials has been almost entirely lacking. We aim to close this gap and to facilitate the training of experts of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

We are proud to boast of a National Policy Committee comprised of the finest linguists in the field nationwide, two co-directors- Edna Andrews and Laura Janda- both prominent researchers in the field of Slavic linguistics, and a Local Steering Committee which draws upon nationally-recognized leaders in linguistics and in the implementation of technology in language pedagogy. Ours is a coherent, concrete plan to pull together the combined strengths of Slavic and East European language teaching and to support the professional development of instructors of our languages as well as the acquisition of these languages by students.



Film Festival

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies and James A. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence present a festival of documentary and feature films on “Ten Years Since the Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.”

All films will be shown in Graham Memorial, room 039, starting at 7 pm. Admission is free.

March 8: *After the Velvet Revolution.* (Documentary)

Produced by Tom Weidlinger for PBS Broadcast. A first-hand look at the impact of democracy on the people of Czechoslovakia after the fall of Communism in 1989. The film follows the experiences of five different families and individuals, each of whom first talks about their lives under Communism and what they dreamed would happen in a new democracy. The film then looks at the unfolding of their new lives. Those featured include a family in South Bohemia that reclaims its land and farm; a former underground rock and roll star who becomes a member of parliament; a woman who lived under threat of arrest for her work on a banned newspaper; an unemployed Slovakian who campaigned after the revolution against dividing the nation; and a former student leader of the revolution who is now dedicated to publishing a small literary magazine.

March 29: *The Pigs.* (Feature)

Written and directed by Wladyslaw Pasikowski. Produced by Juliusz Machulski. ZEBRA Film Studio production, 1992. In Polish with English subtitles.

Two former Communist secret police agents are trying to find their place in the changing political scene in Poland. One is offered to join a gang involved in drug trade, the other becomes an officer in a police criminal unit.

April 5: *Lamerica.* (Feature)

Directed by Gianni Amelio (Italy), 1995. In Italian with English subtitles. Set in the wake of Albania’s emancipation from communism and detailing the manner in which fate links up a young, arrogant Italian capitalist and the

just-liberated political prisoner he is attempting to exploit. A politically savvy account of how the downtrodden go from one kind of exploitation to another as political systems change.

April 12: *After the Revolution.* (Feature)

Directed by Andras Szirtes, Hungary, 1990. Hungarian dialog with English subtitles.

This experimental, tongue-in-cheek film is an essay on the meaning of Communist revolution. The hero is a middle-aged writer who ekes out an existence with his cat in a small apartment. Pseudo-documentary passages alternate with scenes perceived through the cat’s eyes.

April 19: *Underground.* (Feature)

Directed by Emir Kusturica. International production. Serbian and German with English subtitles. Winner of the Palme d’Or at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival.

Widely considered to be his masterpiece, this one-of-a-kind epic from Emir Kusturica portrays the downfall of Yugoslavia in a unique blend of satire and heartfelt sentiment, shifting from moments of great humor to reflective sadness and emerging as a celebration of sorts. The story follows two friends who reinvent their personal and political existences to the point of absurdity as they witness the massive changes their country goes through from World War II to its violent division and civil war.

April 26: *Bolshe Vita.* (Feature)

Directed by Ibolya Fekete, Hungary, 1996. Hungarian and Russian with English subtitles.

This acclaimed, multiple-award-winning film centers around a group of young people who meet in a rock pub in Budapest in the summer of 1989 during Hungary’s fleeting celebration of Communism’s fall. This Pynchonesque crew includes two goofy Russian musicians, an engineer who has been reduced to selling kitchen knives, and two girlfriends, English and American, in search of action. After the fun and romance, they must move on, as the Mafia and the onset of new nationalist chaos closes in.



