

officials intent on exercising control over the Americans' operations. Yet *The Big Show in Bololand* is more than a detailed narrative of the famine relief effort. It offers invaluable insights into the first sustained cultural and political encounter between the United States and the fledgling Soviet Union and explores the underpinnings of the rivalry between the capitalist and communist systems. The book is an outstanding example of lively and engaging prose, impressive historical research, and persuasive analysis of the diplomatic underpinnings and consequences of the rescue mission.

**2003 Wayne S. Vucinich
Book Prize**

for an outstanding monograph in
Russian, Eurasian, or East European
studies in any discipline
of the humanities
co-funded by the AAASS
and the Center for Russian
and East European Studies
at Stanford University

Benjamin Nathans

Associate Professor,
University of Pennsylvania
*Beyond the Pale: The Jewish
Encounter with Late Imperial Russia*
(University of California Press)

honorable mention

Slava Gerovitch

Postdoctoral Researcher,
Dibner Institute for the History of
Science and Technology at MIT
and a Research Associate,
Russian Academy of Sciences
From Newspeak to Cyberspeak
(MIT Press)

Benjamin Nathans' masterful study provides a fresh look at an age old problem, the entry and integration of Jews into larger territorial, cultural, and political communities. The book takes us, literally and figuratively, "beyond the pale" of Jewish life in late imperial Russia to the encounter of Jewish professionals and intellectuals with Russian civil institutions. Through exhaustive and innovative research, from newly available archives to private family memoirs,

Nathans brings to life key personalities and social interactions that redefine the Jewish presence in St. Petersburg, and in turn reshape ties to the other subjects of the empire and to Russian Jewry. Through these vibrant portraits of the Jewish-Russian encounter, the author paints a much larger canvas tracing a cultural world of understandings and misconceptions, a social existence beset by advances and setbacks, and a political discourse of emancipation and reaction. This exemplary, insightful book, argued with balance and nuance and written with flair, provides an original interpretation of a central problem in Russian history and politics. More, the intellectual journey goes well beyond Russia to recast our understanding of broader, ever-present issues of identity, integration, and conflict.

In *From Newspeak to Cyberspeak*, Slava Gerovitch penetrates the mysterious world of Soviet cybernetics. The subject is fresh, the argument original. The book offers a scientifically-informed, sociologically-acute and politically-savvy account of cybernetics in the Soviet Union in the post war era, but also moves beyond to an impressive comparison with developments in the United States. The analysis weaves together science and politics, technology and society, governance and dissent, language and ideology. The breadth of the undertaking bridges the divide between the natural and the social sciences, illuminating the subject across several disciplines.

**2003 Graduate Student Essay
Contest**

Kristin Roth-Ey

Ph.D. graduate,
Princeton University
(winner of the Mid-Atlantic
Slavic Conference competition)
"The Problem with the 'Youth
Problem':
Bad Kids and Soviet Community in
the 1950s and 1960s"

Kristin Roth-Ey's paper deploys a broad range of primary and secondary sources to investigate the journalistic and popular obsession with young "troublemakers" in the post-war Soviet press. Why were "style-chasers" (*stiliagi*), hooligans, spongers, loafers, cynics, and egotists

such prevalent targets of Soviet media critique in the 1950s and 1960s? While carefully attentive to existing sociological analyses of this phenomenon by Russian and non-Russian scholars of Soviet youth culture, Roth-Ey offers her own original interpretation of youth culture and its critics. She posits that the well-honed cultures of "style" among postwar youth was experienced as a powerful symbolic danger to the Soviet ideological project. She argues that the "family" model of Soviet culture, "with its symbolic association between the regime, Soviet-ness, and heroic youth" seemed threatened by many elements of *stiliaga* and related youth trends. As the immediacy of war-time heroism gradually began to fade into nostalgia, the fashion, musical, and cultural practices of young men and women seemed to challenge the very foundations of ideological unity. In her close examination of media accounts of the time, Roth-Ey discloses why the symbolic confrontation of classical Soviet vs. youthful style so overshadowed the growing societal problems posed by alcoholism, domestic and public violence, and underemployment. ♦

**Winners of Regional
Competitions for Graduate
Student Essay Contests**

Midwest Slavic Conference

Elaine S. Weiner,
University of Michigan
"No (Wo)Man's Land: The Post-Socialist Purgatory of Czech Female
Factory Workers"

**Rocky Mountain/Western
Slavic Association**

Angelo Georgakis,
University of Minnesota
"Revolution, Nationalism, and Cultural
Change in Salonika, 1908-1922"

**Southern Conference
on Slavic Studies**

Sharon Kowalsky,
University of North Carolina
"Making Sense of Murdering Mother:
Soviet Criminologists
and Infanticide
in Revolutionary Russia"

**Southwest Slavic Association
Petre Petrov,**

University of Pittsburgh
"The Freeze of Historicity
in Thaw Cinema"