

ZPRÁVY

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Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU) and Vysoká škola
zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety, Bratislava, Slovakia
announce the 28th World Congress of the SVU, Bratislava, Slovakia,
September 1-4, 2016:

"The World in a Time of Change"





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Call for Papers!



The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) and the Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety (VŠŠVA), Bratislava, with the additional support of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Comenius University in Bratislava, are pleased to announce the 2016 SVU World Congress, to be held in the historic capital city of Slovakia from September 1 to September 4, 2016. The general theme of the conference will be “The World in a Time of Change”.

The 28th World Congress of the SVU will focus on the role of people of Czech and Slovak origin in studying, developing, and coping with a world undergoing more—and more rapid—changes than ever before in human history. The congress will take place in the building of the VŠŠVA on Nám. 1. mája, next to the Presidential Palace and steps from the historic center of town. Accommodation will be offered in the dormitories of the VŠŠVA, or may be booked in any of the nearby hotels, hostels, or b&bs.

Papers and panel proposals are urgently solicited in the major subject headings

of 1) Natural Sciences, 2) Technical Sciences and New Technologies, 3) History and Social Sciences, 4) Humanities, and 5) Culture and the Arts. Proposals for complete panels are preferred, but individual papers will be reviewed and grouped into panels according to the decision of the conference organizers. General subject groupings may include: Politics, Economics, Business; Religion and Philosophy; Performing Arts; Plastic Arts; Technology and Industry; Medicine and Laboratory Science; Libraries and Librarians; Heritage Organizations; Immigration and Emigration; History; Czech/Slovak and Slavic Studies; Czech/Slovak and Slavic Linguistics; Language Teaching; Literature and Cinema; Sport.

- Questions about planned submissions or the submissions process should be directed to the appropriate person of the four conference program organizers: for history and the humanities, Hugh Agnew, foýr natural and technical science Eva Hanušovská, for medicine Peter Ujhazy, and for culture and arts Cecilia Rokusek, at the conference email address (SVUBratislava2016@gmail.com) by **July 1, 2016**.
- Other questions including questions about logistical matters may be sent to the local chairperson, Eva Hanušovská eva.hanusovska@gmail.com
- Email your completed submission (title and 300 word abstract) to SVUBratislava2016@gmail.com by **July 15, 2016**.

Full conference details and registration information will be published in the next issues of *Zprávy*, posted on the SVU website, and distributed electronically. Registration via the website is preferred; information about the conference, other activities of SVU, as well as membership information and forms, can be found at <http://www.svu2000.org/>.

Europe and Its Redivision(s) since 2014? New Narratives and Research Perspectives for SVU?



As the year 2015 ended, leaders in Brussels and Berlin were sending warnings to the new government in Poland, a congress of Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) reaffirmed Chancellor Angela Merkel's policy of asylum for refugees in unlimited numbers, and Czech President Miloš Zeman called the mass migration of Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans into Central Europe a foreign invasion directed by the Muslim Brotherhood. And in the first days of 2016 it slowly became clear

that New Year's Eve had been another turning point, a night when men of Middle Eastern origins mobbed and sexually molested hundreds of women in Cologne and in other cities in Germany and Western Europe, even as Angela Merkel spoke to the nation (and the nations of Europe) in defense of *Willkommenskultur*, a culture of welcome for migrants.

Migration is redividing Europe, and so is the past and its returns, from a strong Germany and fears of Germany to a new "Eastern Bloc" in the form of the Visegrád Four—Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Didn't Francis Fukuyama declare the End of History in 1989? Shouldn't we now be living, so many years later, in the "happily ever after" of Western liberal democracy? Shouldn't we be hearing mostly the steady hum of the Western model as it keeps us happy (consumer confidence) and puts the world in order? Was the American naive? What will we in SVU make of all this, this summer, at our next world congress, and in the years ahead?

A hundred years after World War I and twenty-five years after the Cold War, we are again living through events that suddenly change how the world looks to us. In February 2014, the Euromaidan Revolution took power in Kiev, and Russia and the West went to war over Ukraine, a war by media and economic power. In January 2015, Greeks elected Alexis Tsipras and rebelled against their creditors or keepers ... the EU, IMF and Germany. In September, Angela Merkel welcomed all migrants, and Viktor Orbán put up fences against them. *Time* magazine praised Merkel as its Man of the Year, and the *Economist* praised her as the Indispensable European. It was praise from America and Britain, two countries that opened no doors to the new migrants. Meanwhile, Orbán became the villain in Brussels and Berlin. Now all four Visegrád countries are a problem, as we can read and hear in Germany's press and talk shows. (Try *Der Spiegel* at www.spiegel.de.) To German media, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles and Hungarians are (again) the "East Europeans." I wonder, what would Milan Kundera make of this, thirty years after his essay about Czechs, Slovaks, Poles and Hungarians as "Central Europeans" and as a "kidnapped part of the West"?

Thanks to the migrants coming in their thousands every day, "European values" are now part of the discourse in the European Union and in German media. Angela Merkel, Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann, European Parliament President Martin Schulz and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker speak for "European values." Their plan is to distribute migrants among all EU countries and to fix a quota of migrants for each county to take. Viktor Orbán and all the other "East Europeans," on the other hand, are lacking in "European values." That may be ... but what is lacking for sure are questions and questioning. What are "European values"? Who decides? What

if some Europeans and some European states have different values? How will Europe tolerate ... or not tolerate ... a diversity of values?

If we think about what's going in Europe, with Germany at the center, and if we think about Russia and Ukraine to the east and about the Middle East and North Africa to the south, then we can imagine all kinds of lecture and discussion panels for SVU this summer. Big events are happening, millions of people are moving, and behind it all, even bigger, are trends at work every day on everything around us. Populations ageing, global warming, new industrial revolutions, concentrations of wealth and social polarizations. We study two small countries in the middle of Europe and the people from there, but these two countries and diasporas are connected to everything in a small world. We can expand our view and our panels out to Europe, Eurasia, the transatlantic world and global change. If we do that, then we can look for speakers in more places. More disciplines and academic workplaces in more countries. New speakers will come if we use our imaginations to make our panels bold. The call for papers is an art form we should master. I've read CFPs that changed my day and stayed on my mind, because someone wrote the kinds of questions that start you thinking and keep you thinking. The panel title is another art form where we need virtuosos. Panel authors work with images. The right title can make a panel take off. It must be short and brilliant. A few words that make enormous energy together. In Twitter, some people work wonders, 140 characters at a time. If you're one of them, bring that talent to SVU and its congress this summer.

Our congress in Plzeň was two years ago, in the first days of July 2014. A few days later, someone shot down flight MH17 over the Donbass in east Ukraine, where many sides fought each other. What has happened in the two years since our congress? The war of words and money between Russia and the West was already on, but it has gone on. And Charlie Hebdo, Greece, the million migrants and COP 21 (the climate meeting) have all happened since we got together in Plzeň. Think of the panels we could make just about the last two years in Europe and the world. Panels about our world today. Panels about things we all want to better understand and connect to the past and future.

We can all think of ideas for panels and then rethink them until we arrive at enough panels that are good enough to make the most of our next congress. I'm wrestling with a few panel ideas right now. "Between Merkel and Orbán, between Berlin and Budapest: Migrants and Divisions in Europe." A panel like that might focus speakers and their audience on leadership and personalities, on two opposite ways to handle mass migration, on two choices for Europe, on the differences between two capitals and between center and periphery in

the EU. Unspoken are the Czech Republic and the other countries between Berlin and Budapest ... along with questions about “betweenness” and choosing sides in Europe in a time for decisions.

“The Visegrád Four: Politics and Peripheries in Europe.” This kind of panel could focus on the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary. It would make us stretch to find speakers on two more countries (Poland and Hungary). Maybe even from those countries? The Visegrád Four formed their group in 1991 to help each other “return to Europe,” the slogan of those days, and then to improve themselves as new EU members after 2004. Now they stand against Berlin and Brussels on migration, and migration is bringing Schengen free travel and the EU to the brink. The Visegrád Four are still a periphery: Poland is the biggest net beneficiary of payments from Brussels in the EU, getting some 16 billion Euros a year and paying less than 4 billion. The other Visegrád countries also still enjoy generous transfer payments for improving their infrastructure, and all four are tied to the German economy, the largest in Europe. In the Czech Republic, many jobs and incomes depend on Škoda, a car company whose majority owner is Volkswagen. With politics now so at odds with economics, isn’t it a good time for an SVU panel on Visegrád?

Or make it two or three panels: Visegrád is worth it to us at SVU. Beyond politics, economies, values and peripheries, there’s also the poetics of Visegrád. The statesmen from Warsaw, Prague and Budapest chose this small town on the Danube Bend in 1991 because the kings of Poland, Bohemia and Hungary already met there to work together in the 1300s! And think of what “Visegrád” means. It means the “city on a hill,” just the image America’s philosophers and fans since John Winthrop invoke for America as an ideal for the world, as the country with the values to lead all mankind to a bright future. I’m not saying Eastern Europe or any other place shines with values good for people elsewhere in the world. Just that “Visegrád” has a useful kind of poetics, a poetics we can use to question and subvert metropolises and peripheries, a Western Europe that’s always right, and an Eastern Europe that’s always wrong or behind or in need of “transition” and “development.”

So, here’s another panel idea: “European Values or Moral Imperialism? Migrations and Minds in the EU.” “Moral imperialism” was what Viktor Orbán warned his fellow Europeans about in Berlin, Brussels and Strasbourg. I wonder if Orbán really gets through in Western media: *Der Spiegel* treats him as a villain or a caricature, not as someone to actually understand and explain. But that’s just what a learned society like SVU can do. Use scholarship to question reverences and hegemonies, which creep into scholarship itself, from politics and media. Use scholarship to give us a more complete and balanced understanding of the things that most divide people.

So, as you think about panels, think also about speakers to invite. Be bold! I have two favorites. Two I would love to see among us are Hans-Werner Sinn (*1948), Professor of Economics and Public Finance at the University of Munich, and another economist, Ilona Švihlíková (*1977), at Prague's *Vysoká škola mezinárodních a veřejných vztahů*. Sinn wrote a book about the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-2009, and he called it *Casino Capitalism*. And just months before the Merkel-migration started, Sinn asked how many immigrants Germany would need in the twenty years to 2035 just to stop ageing and to save its retirement system. His answer? 32 million. For keeping your economy and retiree welfare at steady state, immigrants are even better than natives, all else being equal, because someone else pays to educate them. But the migrants now coming to Germany in thousands every day are the wrong kind, says Sinn, because they're not skilled enough for the jobs in the German economy. See Sinn's Web site in English at www.hanswernersinn.de/en, and you can watch him on YouTube.

How many million immigrants will the Visegrád countries need? They're ageing like Germany. Worse, they're a periphery. So, they lose many of their young and talented, who go to Germany and Britain for better jobs and more money. Consider Bulgaria: it had 9 million people in Communist times; now it has just 6 million. Will Germany surprise us all and integrate so many migrants and so make its population not just younger but also more productive, talented and secure? Or will integration fail for many, as it has in France, which is producing its third generation of jihadists (Gilles Kepel)? Angela Merkel and Germany are giving the Visegrád countries much to think about.

So is Ilona Švihlíková. You can listen to her on *Český rozhlas* (Czech public radio) at www.rozhlas.cz ... all 97 interviews with her since 2009. You can download them as audio files to your smart phone, carry them around and play them back wherever you want. You can read her books, from *Globalizace a krize* (2010) to *Jak jsme se stali kolonií* (How we became a colony) (2015). The first time I listened to her, *Český rozhlas* introduced her as a "leftist economist," and Ilona asked, "Do you introduce the others as 'right-wing' economists?" I almost let go of the steering wheel and applauded. (I listen to *Český rozhlas* on my long Texas commutes.) Švihlíková spoke about the million new migrants on February 2, 2016, on "Host Radiožurnálu," where the question was how they might affect the Eurozone economy. Here Švihlíková spoke about something completely different than Hans-Werner Sinn's immigrants as the people we need to support our retirees: she spoke about Industry 4.0, a fourth industrial revolution, this time with information technologies and artificial intelligence. Advanced economies in Europe will produce a lot more wealth ... and a lot fewer jobs. Not nearly enough for their own citizens. So, the falling dependency ratio (workers per retiree) will not matter anymore,

and immigrants will have nothing to do. Who is (more) right, Ilona Švihlíková or Hans-Werner Sinn? It's a question we could use to enliven much of our congress this summer.

We should also have at least one panel on Russia this summer. At Texas A&M University, where I work, the Snowcroft Institute at the Bush School of Government hosted a November 2014 panel titled "Reassessing Putin's Russia: Tsarist Dinosaur, Failed State, or 21st Century Predator?" That's pretty fierce. As fierce as the Western media now is on Russia, from Simon Shuster at *Time* magazine to Arkady Ostrovsky at *The Economist* and Christian Neef at *Der Spiegel*. Ferocity is plentiful on the other side, too. Just watch Vladimir Solovyev's talk show or Dmitry Kiselyov's Sunday-night *Vesti nedeli* on the Rossiia television channel (and on YouTube). Among academics, Karen Dawisha and Richard Sakwa write in opposite ways about Russia. After Dawisha published her book, *Putin's Kleptocracy* (2014), Sakwa asked in the *Times Literary Supplement*, "Is Russia really a kleptocracy?" "The administration fulfils many other functions," he wrote, "including maintaining domestic stability, asserting its role in the world, and above all, pursuing a dirigiste developmental vision that may not be the most efficient economic model available but is nevertheless a variety of capitalism with a respectable pedigree that meets the basic needs of the Russian people. Russia is not like Nigeria under General Sani Abacha"

I would love to see a Sakwaesque panel on Russia. A panel without alarmism, rancor and Cold-Warriorship. It would bring honor (and new attention?) to SVU, a learned society made by émigrés in the Cold War. (I'm no émigré, but I went to first grade in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and to a refugee camp the next year.) Our panel could take up so many questions. Is Russia really a threat? What can Russia teach the West? Putin and others criticize Western "double standards" and welcome a more "multipolar" world. How are media companies, governments and other elites waging "information war" between Russia and the West? What are the relationships and prospects between Russia and America, Europe and the Visegrád countries? What if we stopped projecting and instead explored Russia as it is?

The world has changed in the two years since our last congress. We have much to think about and many questions to ask. SVU is tied to two small countries, but they are countries between Russia and Germany in the European Union and Eurasia. They are part of the biggest economy in the world (EU) and the biggest landmass and population in the world (Eurasia). It's a good point of view to keep in mind as we imagine our panels and our congress in Bratislava this summer.

Charlottesville Regional SVU Conference through My Prism

Text and pictures by Peter Ujhazy



There are meetings in your life that pass and within a short time you fail to recall anything special about them.

The 2015 SVU Re-

gional Conference, however, was different. Reasons? I can offer several: First, the setting: nothing stimulates an intellectual discourse more than the lovely venue of the Jefferson's university campus in July



where old, yet sophisticated architecture conducts an eternal dialogue with nature's blossoming gifts of beauty. The omnipresent myrtle trees in full bloom chat with colonnades around the Lawn, serpentine walls smartly build to preserve material, yet maintaining structural stability lead you to secluded areas ideal for private meditations. And all this dominated by majestic buildings, venerable monuments and, yes, even modern artifacts such as the remains of the Berlin Wall as a memento to never take freedom for granted.

The second reason for the success of the meeting, perhaps most importantly, were the people. A small group indeed, but what a pleasure was to speak to any one of them. Or to listen to what they had to say during the official program. It is hard to touch all what was presented, so I will rather select those talks that impressed me most. All of us were honored to have Ambassadors Petr Gandalovič and Peter Kmec joining the conference.





Mister Gandalovič after his analysis of the current events generously presented commemorative buttons to two key members who organized the meeting, SVU President Petr Hausner and the conference host Bruce Vlk.

Peter Kmec together with Mary McPherson of the Slovak American Foundation and Vladimíra Briestenská of the Timber Foundation, who has joined online, informed the audience about the opportunities in the Slovak entrepreneurial ecosystem with special emphasis on women-entrepreneurs. This topic matched the overall theme of the conference focusing on women and their



accomplishments.



Along this topic, in one of her presentations Dáša Jendrušáková of Keane University discussed her original study about Slovak and US female practitioners and their attitudes to use corporal punishment. One of the most impressive presentations and discussions of the meeting was the screening of the documentary “Turning Pages” that highlights the stories of 25 classmates born at the end of WWII in the US presented by one of the producers, Anna Polesny. Besides the sensitive capture of individual stories, a theme of belonging emerged in the discussion as participants could empathize with the generation that experienced the birth of rock&roll, the tragedy of the Vietnam War and the ups and downs in lives of graduates from a Schenectady high school.



But there were also funny stories to remember from Charlottesville. One of them was the experience to watch my dear friend, SVU President Petr Hausner, the Head of Hematology/Oncology at the Baltimore VA Medical Center and Associate Professor of Medicine at the Universi-



ty of Maryland, to completely devote himself to the rather manipulative instructions of the student-sales person who tried to sell him the most fitting sneakers in the world. It was quite a “podívaná” to watch Petr patiently walking barefoot back and forth while the “expert” evaluated his type of feet. Petr got his colorful sneakers eventually, a worthy souvenir indeed. It is hard to imagine that only a few hours later, this esteemed scholar would give his thoughtful presentation on immunotherapy, transposons, and cancer.

The last picture is one of Petr’s favorite. Here Louis Reith and Judy Fiehler, embrace the leisure atmosphere of our meeting.



And finally a reason why this was a memorable gathering was the superb organization headed by Hugh Agnew, Bruce Vlk and his University of Virginia team. Great job fellow SVU members and thank you for lasting memories!



Report from the 2015 General Assembly (Valná hromada)

Petr Hausner

At the end of a small, yet successful conference, which was conducted in an uplifting, friendly and collegial spirit, came our business session, the General Assembly. It was delayed for 60 minutes per bylaws since only 18 members in good standing were present.



I had the opportunity to thank Bruce Vlk and his collaborators for organizing a flawless and inspiring conference. Minutes from the 2014 General Assembly were approved. Thomas

Holbik presented the Treasurer's report, which clearly showed that the income-expense balance of our society was narrowly positive for every year of my presidency. Thomas Holbik also indicated that all finances of SVU were consolidated and now reside in one single bank account. Since all transactions



conducted from the beginning of this presidency were conducted through this single bank account and all bank statements can be electronically retrieved, the transactions of the Society are fully transparent. I pointed out that any person furnished with an electronic access to this single bank account can

check each and every item of income and expense for its legitimacy. In fact, there are no expenses other than postage and mail box payments, printing, insurance, and webhosting. Thomas Holbik also demonstrated the payment

gateway, a new feature of the SVU website, allowing to make credit card payments, which are instantaneously reflected in the SVU databases.

The 2014 Audit Report prepared by a certified government auditing professional was published in full in the conference issue of Zpravy Vol. LVII, No. 3 (April-May 2015 issue), page 22-23, and is thus also available on the SVU website. It was made available to the General Assembly and discussed. The Audit Report proposed to grant discharge to the retiring 2012-2014 board. Since the last set of bank account statement for the 2014 audit became available and was delivered to the auditor on May 29, 2015, the audit could not be finished by October 31st as planned.

I also stressed the achievements of this board: A balanced budget, all funds of the society under one roof in a transparent account, the absolution of the 2012-2014 board, the consolidation of membership information in one Excel spreadsheet file and its careful clean-up by Jiri Eichler, Thomas Holbik and myself, the fact that the board has all dignitaries in place, the fact that Zpravy have a more attractive look, SVU has a presence at all activities in Washington, has lunched multiple events, and most importantly: a friendly, welcoming and positive atmosphere, which prevailed in the last 4 years.



Reports on Zpravy, Kosmas, and Chapters followed.

At the end of the meeting, a surprise letter created by the Council Speaker (Míla Rechcigl), co-signed by Council members, which was made available at the beginning of the General Assembly, was discussed. The letter expressed concern about the recent trajectory of the Society, in particular the shrinking membership base, purported fiscal irregularities, delay in the 2012-2014 audit, and low level of activity of the Society. The major delay in distributing books ordered and prepaid by members was a valid complaint and it was remedied

soon after the conference. Other issues addressed in the letter were already remedied at the time of the General Assembly, i.e. consolidation of accounts, consolidation of the membership database, filling-up of open positions on the executive board, catching up with the printing of Zpravy and Kosmas. Some of the statements in the letter, e.g. accusation of a negative budget balance, were directly contradicted by the Treasurer's report. Thus, the General Assembly thanked the Council Speaker and Council members for their concerns, but voted unanimously against the acceptance of the letter. The facts, data, and explanations given at the General Assembly were persuasive enough to make all the Council members who were present at the conference (2 of 2) to change their mind and vote against the letter and its proposals.

That does not mean that everything is ideal in our Society. Though participation of the members of the Society is strong, in particular within some of its chapters, who do excellent work – as e.g. documented in this issue by the New York chapter programs and the report which we witnessed in the Fall at the Slovak Embassy in Washington by the Bratislava chapter, it remains very difficult to attract young intellectuals and artists to the Society. It is obvious, that the future of our Society depends on involving young people, have them create programs which would attract a critical mass of individuals of the millennial generation and eventually hand the Society over to them. Concerned members, including Council members, are desperately looking for new ideas. In this issue of Zpravy, we will demonstrate the approach of the New York chapter as designed by Susanna Halsey and the new New York chapter's new president Christopher W. Harwood. In the next issue of Zpravy, Míla Rechčígl will present his advice, based on his huge experience with running the Society in the past. Nevertheless, we most importantly need to update our mission as appropriate for the current times and morph our techniques as appropriate for the electronic and information age, so as to be able to better serve our constituency of intellectuals and artists connected to the Czech Republic and Slovakia by providing a vibrant platform for exchange of ideas, opportunities, and activities. Towards this end, we will publish in the next issue of Zpravy also S. Halseys' proposal to establish a SVU Academia Hub.

SVU in New York Has a New President

SVU NY has the pleasure to announce that Christopher Harwood, PhD. has accepted the presidency of the SVU New York Chapter. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Jitka Volavka-Ilner who served as the president since 2011. Under her leadership, SVU NY developed more diverse and engaging programming, attracting a wider, intergenerational international audience and the participation of many outstanding Czech and Slovak artists, scientists and scholars new to the SVU community.



Christopher W. Harwood has been Lecturer in Czech in the Slavic Department of Columbia University since 2001. He received his PhD in Russian literature with a minor in Czech language and literature from Columbia in 2000. His research and teaching focus on methods and materials developed for teaching Czech as a foreign language, and on 20th-21st-century Czech literature and culture. He is a former co-

president of the International Association of Teachers of Czech (IATC) and a member of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL), the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), and the Czechoslovak Studies Association (CSA), as well as the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU). Contact: cwh4@columbia.edu

Achievements

Petr Hausner, MD, PhD published a chapter on adoptive immunotherapy of cancer in a Czech textbook of Oncologic Immunology (Kolektiv autorů, Onkologická imunologie, Eva Zavadová editor, Edice Aeskulap 2015).

6 MINUTES at SVU NY

Czech and Slovak Academic Show & Tell



6 MINUTES is a series of events conceived and produced by Suzanna Halsey for the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in New York (SVU NY). Its purpose is to present Czech and Slovak artists, scientists, students and scholars living in the New York City area, as well as visiting recipients of grants and scholarships who study or conduct research at local universities and institutions. The format challenges participants to present the subject of their interest and studies through a presentation in English limited to six minutes.

After a pilot event in April 2015 moderated by our new president, **Christopher Harwood**, we were encouraged by the positive response from both the presenters and the audience, and decided to make 6 Minutes a recurring program. Participants appreciate the opportunity to meet other bright and talented Czech and Slovak presenters and to learn about each other's work. Some have found a new friend or colleague. Our third evening featured artists living and working in the New York City area. In the future, we hope to videotape the presentations and share them through social media.

We encourage other SVU chapters in the United States and throughout the world to try the 6 Minutes format as a way to showcase the work of a new generation of Czech and Slovak scholars and artists in their communities. For more information about 6 Minutes, please contact Suzanna Halsey: SH34@nyu.edu.

6 Minutes Participants

6 Minutes I April 28, 2015



DINO DVOŘÁK is a PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering at SUNY Downstate/NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. He studies the role of neural oscillations in cognitive functions, with a focus on animal models of schizophrenia and autism. Before joining the PhD program, Dino was a co-founder of Bio-Signal Group Corp., a biomedical company that develops solutions for brain function assessment in clinical environments. Dino published his work in *Neuron*, *PLoS One*, *Frontiers in Psychiatry* and *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*.

Sponsors: Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

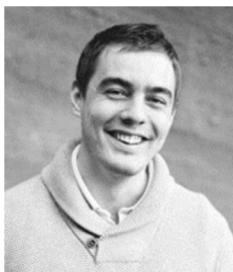
Contact: dino@indus3.net



VĚRA DVOŘÁK studied Czech language, literature, general linguistics, and phonetics at Charles University. Věra is a recipient of the Quota scholarship from the University of Tromsø in Norway where she earned her MA degree in Theoretical linguistics. She is now a PhD Candidate in Linguistics at Rutgers University. Her dissertation focuses on syntactic analysis of phonetically null objects in generic and episodic contexts. Věra published articles on nominalizations, ditransitive verbs, the dative case, aspect and Czech voicing assimilation.

Sponsors: Rutgers University

Contact: dvorakov@rutgers.edu; www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dvorakov/



JIŘÍ LACOMBE-JELÍNEK pursues an MA at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where he is enrolled in a Dual Degree Program with Sciences Po Institute in Paris. Jiří specializes in international security and conflict resolution, human rights and humanitarian affairs. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

Sponsors: Bakala Foundation, Czech Republic, The Kellner Family Foundation, Czech Republic, The Most Honorable Bapsy Marchioness of Winchester Award in Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Columbia University,

Davis Peace and Diplomacy Scholarship, International House

Contact: jelinek@post.harvard.edu



DÁŠA JENDRUŠÁKOVÁ is a PsyD candidate in Combined Clinical-School Psychology at Kean University, NJ. Currently, she is an extern at Hoboken University Medical Center and also lectures psychology at Kean University. An alumna of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, SK, she later earned her professional diploma in Marriage and Family Therapy at Kean University. Her research interests include attitudes of clinicians towards use of corporal punishment, neurobiology of love, parenting, life skills, sleep quality, mindfulness, and relationship dynamics. Dáša had been trained extensively in educational psychology. She is a member of SVU.

Sponsors: Satir Global Networ, BEA Institute, Kean Assistantship

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IVA KNOBLOCH is an alumna of Charles University in Prague, a curator of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague and teacher at the Czech Academy of Art, Architecture in Design where she specializes in design history. Iva was hosted by the Museum of Modern Art in New York where she researched the 1939 New York World's Fair focusing on the Czechoslovak Pavilion and émigré artists, designers and architects.

Sponsors: Prague Fulbright Commission

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JANA KRYŠTOFOVÁ is a Pediatric Resident at Maimonides Infants & Children's Hospital in Brooklyn. She has MD Degree in pulmonary physiology and currently pursuing the research in the field of the enzyme arginase in newborns suffering of pulmonary hypertension. Her future research will be on neurocritical care in pediatrics.

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MAREK SVOBODA works at Columbia University Medical Center as a Research Technician in a neuron stem cell laboratory. He earned his BA at Columbia College, focusing on neuroscience and behavior. He also worked as a Research Assistant in a Cognitive Neuroscience laboratory and as a Teacher's Assistant. Marek has been accepted to the MD-PhD Program at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. He is a founding member of the Columbia University CEE Club.

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PETR ŠULC is Postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Studies in Physics and Biology at Rockefeller University. He has a PhD in Theoretical Physics from Oxford University, UK, where he studied coarse-grained modelling of DNA and RNA. He obtained a Master's degree in Quantum Physics from the École Polytechnique in Paris, and Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Mathematical Physics from the Czech Technical University (ČVUT) in Prague. Petr is interested in applying the methods of statistical

physics and computer simulation to the study of complex systems, ranging from electrical grids to biology.

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FILIP TUČEK is a MA Candidate at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He also works as a research assistant at the Eurasian Harriman Institute, where he focuses on European security, a subject of his professional interest and numerous writings published in Great Britain, United States, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Filip is a co-founder and president of the

Columbia University CEE Club.

Sponsors: Krsek Foundation, Czech Republic; Robert Legvold Fellowship
Columbia University Harriman Institute Junior Fellowship; Dasturdaza Dr.
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6 Minutes II November 12, 2015



VANDA ČERNOŠKÁ is a PhD candidate at the Department of Sociology at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. She holds a B.A. in philosophy and film studies from Palacky University in Olomouc and in sociology and gender studies from Masaryk University in Brno. She earned her M.A. in sociology (Masaryk University) and gender studies (Charles University). For the last four years, Vanda has been working in the field of migration and integration in state administration and later, in the NGO sector. Currently, she is a Fulbright Visiting Assistant in Research at the Yale Center for Cultural Sociology. In her research, she is focusing on new media activism and contemporary feminism.

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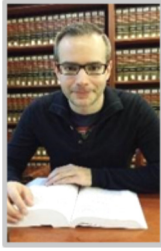
VÁCLAV KUČERA, PhD, is senior assistant professor at the Department of Numerical Mathematics at Charles University in Prague, Václav specializes in the theory and practice of numerical methods for partial differential equations, especially computational fluid dynamics. He makes a living by performing simulations of complicated physical and biological phenomena on computers and proving theorems on methods used and results obtained. Currently, he is a Fulbright Lecturer and Research Scholar at Brown University in Providence, RI.

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VERONIKA MIŠUNOVÁ holds her Master's degree in Corporate Finance from the University of Economics, Bratislava. She has worked as a Product/Proposition Manager for Slovak Telekom. Currently, she is taking part in the Mountbatten Institute's Post Graduate program, studying for a Certificate in International Business Practice awarded by St. Mary's University and working as a Client Office Analyst within Fixed Income at UBS Investment Bank. Veronika enjoys continually improving her business knowledge by taking courses in International Business, Brand Management and Strategy, Private Equity and Venture Capital through UC Berkeley and NYU.

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JOSEF NEJEDLÝ, PhD, graduated in 2008 from a dual-degree program *European Economic Law* organized by Sciences Po Paris and University Robert Schuman in Strasbourg. In 2012, he earned his PhD in Public International Law from Charles University with his thesis *Legality of Evidence in Criminal Proceedings in Light of the European Convention on Human Rights*. After graduation, Josef worked at the international law firm *Gide Loyrette Nouel* and at the European Court of Human Rights. Since September 2012, he has been working at the office of the European Ombudsman in Strasbourg. Josef is currently on sabbatical leave pursuing his LL.M. degree in International Legal Studies as a Fulbright student at New York University School of Law.

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ANNA PRAVDOVÁ, PhD, is an art historian and curator of the Collection of Modern Art at the National Gallery in Prague. She obtained her PhD degree at Charles University in Prague and at the Sorbonne in Paris, where her thesis received an award. She is the author of several monographs, catalogs and studies concerning Czech artists living abroad and she curated a series of exhibitions on this topic. She curated the exhibition *Caught by the Night: Czechs Artists in France 1938-1945* on display at the Moravian Gallery in Brno until January 2016. Currently, she is a Fulbright Research Scholar at the Art Institute of Chicago doing research for a book on Czech artists in the USA during WWII.

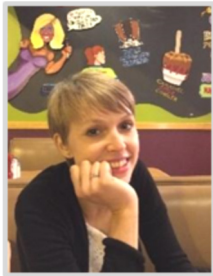
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JIŘÍ PELCL, (academic) architect and artist, is a prominent figure working in the field of design. He is a professor at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design (UMPRUM) in Prague where during 2002–2005 he was a rector. His design work has received many awards and is represented in the permanent design collections of the National Gallery in Prague, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, the Moravian Gallery in Brno, Die Neue

Sammlung in Munich, Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Zurich, the Swedish Glassmuseum in Småland, Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt and the Aldrich Collection in Brighton, UK. Currently, he is a visiting Fulbright Masaryk Scholar at the Pratt Institute researching history of the Shaker furniture style.

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ANDREA PRŮCHOVÁ is a doctoral candidate at the School of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague. Her PhD thesis studies historical images displayed in children's history textbooks and museums. She teaches visual communication at the Department of Media Studies there and at Prague College. She translated two books into Czech, *Picture Theory. Essays on Verbal and Visual Representations* by American visual theorist W. J. T. Mitchell (co-translation) and *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger. Andrea is the founder of *Fresh Eye*, a research and collaborative platform for the study of visual culture. She is developing a new digital educational software emphasizing the visual communication in history education. Currently, Andrea is a Fulbright Masaryk Scholar at NYU Steinhardt and Pratt Institute.

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MICHAEL VINTR earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from New York University Abu Dhabi where he studied on a full scholarship. Michael wrote his senior thesis on the influence of salaries of Members of the European Parliament on their voting behavior. He is currently a MA Candidate at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, where he studies International Security with focus on Conflict Resolution.

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6 Minutes III March 24, 2016 Czech and Slovak Artists Living in New York



JITKA EXLER, born in Karlovy Vary, studied graphic arts in Prague. She worked at the Barrandov animation film studio Bratři v Triku. As a signator of Charter 77, she was later forced to emigrate. After she arrived in the USA at the age of 22, she reconnected with her friend Petr Kratochvíl in New York and collaborated on the black light theater Ta Fantastika. Later, Jitka joined the team of Jim Henson Production as a designer and builder of the Muppets and Sesame Street.

Jitka also designed toys for companies such as Fisher Price, Mattel, Disney, Nickelodeon and Warner Bros. She created Art Plush - whimsical toy-characters to inspire both parents and children to interact with the art world while learning through playful exploration. Continuing as an independent artist for home décor, Jitka designed and created magnificent bas reliefs for prestigious global clients. Oil painting and fashion design have been always part of her life, and both became a vision in her work.

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ANTONÍN FAJT, composer, pianist, and producer. He is the fortunate offspring of the legendary avant-garde duo, Bittová & Fajt. Antonin graduated from Bard College in 2014 with a BA in music composition. He's a recipient of the Theodore Presser Award and Margaret C. Shafer Prize for Composition. During his studies he has written several chamber pieces (e.g. "Thyme" for string quartet, "Feral Spirits"

for piano trio, clarinet, percussion and bass) and an orchestral piece, "Amian." Lately, he's been exploring the possibilities of prepared piano and extended techniques. His current projects include: *Window Quartet* - a contemporary jazz ensemble, and *no good 1's* - a duet with drummer/composer Dean Sharp. Antonin has presented his music as a performer or composer at venues such as Le Poisson Rouge, Merkin Hall, The Morgan Library, and the National Theater in the Czech Republic.

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MARTINA FIŠEROVÁ Prague-born singer, songwriter and musician Martina grew up in a family of musicians and became hooked on jazz. She has performed with many artists at jazz festivals and venues throughout Europe, as well as Taiwan and Vietnam. As a singer and lyricist, she collaborated on the album *These People* by renowned Czech bassist Jaryn Janek writing in English, Czech and German. In 2012 she released her spontaneously recorded debut jazz CD *Clearing*

Fields, featuring Grammy-nominated Hammond organ player and pianist Brian Charette. Her latest CD *Shift*, stamps her mark on the NYC arts scene, and was created both in Europe and in the USA. "Supported by skilled international jazz players, Martina introduced her original material and creative production. Her new album *Shift* reveals the maturing and development of an artist, who is not looking back" - James Nadal, *All About Jazz*

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ROMAN HECZKO was born in Třinec near Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. Since the age of 12, he grew up in Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University with BA in Architecture. He is the principal of MOR-HE Art Tectonics based in Brooklyn. He crafts his products by applying sacred in the world of NOW consciousness. Tonight, Roman unveiled his new Flow-

er of Life Series Vesica chairs and Golden Mean ratio building techniques.

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PAVLÍNA HORÁKOVÁ, mezzo-soprano, grew up in the Czech town of Česká Lípa. She graduated from the Prague Conservatory of Music and holds an MBA from the University of Economics in Prague. She came to New York to pursue her true calling and earned her Master's degree in Classical Voice from the Manhattan School of Music.

Pavlína's goal is to connect her vocal talent and business savvy in a way that gives back to the profession she loves. By fostering social responsibility through her projects, she hopes to encourage the musical talents of youth and people

that don't have easy access to classical music. She is a co-founder of the "Libretto Metro" project, which brings live classical music to people in unexpected places throughout NYC.

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BÁRA JÍCHOVÁ TYSON is a filmmaker, photographer and artist from České Budějovice in the Czech Republic. Her short documentary film *The Hatch House* was selected for the 2016 ADFF in NYC and American Documentary Film Festival in Palm Springs 2016. She often collaborates with other filmmakers and artists, including Hal Hartley,

Michael Almereyda, Amy Jenkins and Josephine Wiggs. In 2013 she co-produced and edited *Built on Narrow Land*, a feature length documentary directed by M.Connolly about Bauhaus architecture on Cape Cod. She has been exhibiting her 2D work and photography in solo and group shows, including Greene Naftali Gallery, Salon Ciel, BBLA and Pocket Utopia. Bára was the art director on *Now, Forager*, a feature film by J.Cortlund and J.Halperin, which was a nominee of Gotham Independent Film Awards 2012. Bára received a BFA at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. She lives and works in NYC.

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KATEŘINA KYSELICA is a visual artist, designer and curator. She received a BFA from VCU School of the Arts in Virginia (2006) and a Master's Law Degree from Charles University in Prague. Her fine art prints and works on paper, represented in private collections, have been exhibited in group shows in New York, Paris and the Czech Republic. She has organized and curated exhibitions on con-

temporary prints, including the Celebrating Print Exhibition - an annual survey of prints from Central and Eastern Europe. Kyselica has published articles on art, printmaking and design in *Design Magazin*, *Czechdesign.cz*, *MF Dnes* and *Journal of the Print World*. She is the principal at KADS New York, publisher and editor of *Celebrating Print Magazine*. Her second solo exhibit *Quietly in My Mind* will opened on April 5th at the Bohemian National Hall.

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GABRIEL LEVICKÝ writer, translator, poet and cartoonist, was born in Czechoslovakia into a family of Holocaust survivors. Inspired by the American Beat movement, he wrote and published his first book of poetry in samizdat. After signing Charter 77, he was forced to leave Slovakia in 1979. He lived in San Francisco, where he was actively involved in the arts, organizing poetry readings and publishing his poetry, which he has continued since moving to New York. He is published in numerous publications nationally and worldwide. His latest poetry collection *B(lack) & W(hite) Wet Paint Poems* is available on the Web via: Xlibris, Amazon, Borders, and Barnes & Noble. Gabriel's cartoons and collages, called *GabLevages®* reflect his perceptions of the often surreal reality around us.

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RADKA SALCMANNOVÁ Born in Plzen, studied at the Institutes of Art and Design and Architecture, respectively, before moving to New York City for a stint at the School of Visual Arts. Radka is a triple-thread creative artist, designer, and film maker who has worked with Matthew Barney, Clifford Owens, Anabela Zigova and Leo Kuelbs Collection. Mixing different media allows her to transgress categories that traditionally define a work of art.

"The viewer is never quite certain of what she is seeing. There is always doubt. Photography looks like paint, the photograph's object is sculptural. Paint resembles photography, and photography is a static moment of video or motion. Every piece is a performance, a record of a moment as well."

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KATARINA VIZINA a native of Bratislava, Slovakia, holds an MA in Musical Theater from The Janáček Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Brno, Czech Republic. After coming stateside, she received a fellowship for Outstanding Contribution to Theater from Brooklyn College (CUNY), where she graduated



with an MFA in Acting. Since 2000, she has acted in traditional and avant-garde theater in New York City. In recent years, she rediscovered her love for Czech and Slovak chanson and cabaret-style singing. After appearing at the Evening of International Chansons at The Brick Theater, Katarina co-founded Cabaret Metropol, a band featuring many singers, each specializing in a different language. Katarina was featured with Cabaret Metropol as the pre-show for the 2014

off-Broadway production of Václav Havel's *The Pig*.

Contact: cabaretmopol@gmail.com, www.katarinavizina.com



Kevin J. McNamara

New Member

Is an Associate Scholar of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, PA, and a former contributing editor to its quarterly journal, *Orbis: A Journal of World Affairs*. A former journalist for Calkins Media Inc. and a former Capitol Hill aide to the late U.S. Congressman R. Lawrence Coughlin, McNamara earned a B.A. in journalism and an M.A. in international politics from Temple University, where he was a student of the noted military historian, Russell F. Weigley. McNamara also earned a certificate in national security law from the University of Virginia's School of Law and a certificate in non-profit management from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. He lives in Philadelphia, PA.

McNamara is the author of *Dreams of a Great Small Nation: The Mutinous Army that Threatened a Revolution, Destroyed an Empire, Founded a Republic, and Remade the Map of Europe* (New York: Public Affairs, 2016), which relates the very dramatic events that surrounded the founding of Czecho-Slovakia, whose ad hoc Czecho-Slovak Legion, recruited from among POWs inside Russia, seized all of Siberia in 1918, riveting the world's attention. He followed the path taken by the Czecho-Slovak Legion shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union, traveling almost two thousand miles along the Trans-Siberian Railway. He was subsequently awarded research grants by the Earhart and Tawani

Foundations to acquire and translate from Czech to English first-hand accounts by the men who had served in the legion, which were published in Prague in the 1920s but were suppressed following the Nazi and Soviet conquests of Czecho-Slovakia.

He has been published in *The American Spectator*, *Commentary*, *Defense News*, *Orbis*, *Society*, *The University Bookman*, and *The World and I*, as well as in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Detroit News*, *Memphis Commercial-Appeal*, *Newsday*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Pittsburgh Press*, *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, and *Seattle Times*. His work has been translated into Chinese and cited by the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Commission on Broadcasting to the People's Republic of China. He is currently serving as a consultant on a film that is in production in the Czech Republic, *The Legionaries: Siberian Anabasis*, directed by Petr Nikolaev. McNamara is listed in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the East*.

Book Announcement

"The pages of history recall scarcely any parallel episode at once so romantic in character and so extensive in scale," said Winston S. Churchill about the men whose military exploits and global trek helped to found the republic of Czecho-Slovakia in 1918.

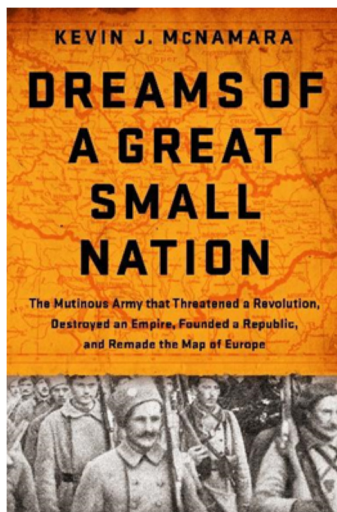
As the 100th anniversary of their achievement and hardships approaches, their story is told in a new book, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation: The Mutinous Army that Threatened a Revolution, Destroyed an Empire, Founded a Republic, and Remade the Map of Europe* (New York: Public Affairs, March 2016), by Kevin J. McNamara.

In 1917, two empires that ruled much of Europe and Asia teetered on the edge of the abyss, exhausted by the ruinous cost in blood and treasure of the First World War. As Imperial Russia and the Habsburg-ruled Austria-Hungary began to succumb, a small group of Czech and Slovak combat veterans stranded in Siberia saw an opportunity to realize their long-held dream of independence.

While their plan was audacious and complex, and involved moving their 50,000-strong army by land and sea across three-quarters of the earth's expanse, their commitment to fight for the Allies on the Western Front riveted the attention of Allied London, Paris, and Washington. Their discipline, too, impressed observers. "They are organized like a department store, disciplined like a Prussian regiment," quipped British writer (and spy) W. Somerset Maugham.

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Periodical



On their journey across Siberia, a brawl erupted at a remote Trans-Siberian rail station that sparked a wholesale rebellion aimed at defending themselves against a threatening Soviet regime and its growing Red Army. The Czecho-Slovak Legion seized control of the Trans-Siberian Railway, and with it, all of Siberia. In the end, this small band of POWs and deserters, whose strength was seen by Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky as the chief threat to Soviet rule, helped destroy the Austro-Hungarian Empire and found the republic of Czecho-Slovakia.

British prime minister David Lloyd George agreed with Churchill, saying, "The story of the adventures and triumphs of this small army is, indeed, one of the greatest epics of history." Former U.S. president Teddy Roosevelt declared that their accomplishments were "unparalleled, so far as I know, in ancient or modern warfare."

Publisher's Weekly calls McNamara's book a "captivating narrative history . . . McNamara proves to be a great storyteller." *Kirkus Reviews* calls *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* "Extraordinary . . . McNamara, an impressive storyteller armed with a treasure of documents only recently available, ably narrates the remarkable feats of these men who fought every inch of the way . . . a fantastic addition to the shelves of World War I histories." The *Library Journal* says he "shares a valuable story that is relatively unknown and understood in the West."