
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The *Slavic Review* Web site advises authors that “*Slavic Review* is a peer-reviewed journal featuring new scholarship, in any discipline, concerning eastern and east central Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, past and present. We seek original and significant new research that also explores conceptual and analytical themes with potential resonance across fields and disciplines.” This terse second sentence implies a body of purposes, values, and experiences that shape this journal’s personality. We receive, of course, a great many more manuscripts than we can ultimately accept for publication. As editor, I must make difficult choices, with the help of external peer reviewers and the editorial board, even among publishable articles. To put in a few words the complex mix of considerations that shape decisions, we seek research that makes an original and important contribution to scholarly interpretation with fields, try to ensure fair balance across disciplines and geographic regions, and, prefer studies that explore significant concepts, categories, and theories and that can speak to scholars in different fields and disciplines. When these have the promise of interesting scholars outside the Russian and east European field, all the better.

Although every article is expected to do this work well on its own, organized clusters of articles around specific topics and themes, sometimes accompanied by invited commentary (including by scholars outside Slavic studies), have particular potential to realize this desired intellectual synergy and reach. The cluster on emotions featured in this issue, joined by individual articles that also engage questions of emotion and self, demonstrate this, I hope. Although these articles all concern Russia (to be sure, from the end of the eighteenth century to the late twentieth century and from the perspectives of three disciplines), at stake are conceptual and analytical issues at the heart of a great deal of humanistic and social science research, including how the study of emotions illuminates questions of class, gender, sexuality, power, morality, science, literature, religion, and ideology—social and cultural structures and practices that are both powerfully normative and continually contested and transgressed. Though prisms of sensibility, feeling, passions, and emotions and discourses about these, the articles in this issue also explore such large (and elusive) terrains as the self, the spaces of public and private, notions of thought and perception, the body, death, and modernity. Not least, by focusing on emotion, these articles ponder a methodological challenge facing most of us: how to “read” texts and language for “meaning” and to understand the interplay of cultural significations with society, politics, and history.

As always, I welcome comments and suggestions on the work of the journal.

M.D.S.