

Editorial

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SLOVO is an interdisciplinary journal dedicated to showcasing research on East-Central European, Russian and Eurasian affairs. Housed at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, SLOVO is overseen by an Editorial Board comprising of the School's postgraduate students.

Issue 1 of Volume 24 signifies the beginning of a new era for SLOVO: as of this issue, the journal is no longer published in the print medium and is instead available electronically through UCL Discovery, an online repository for academic research. Despite the nostalgia inspired by this move for those of us still keen to feel the weight of a real book in our hands, the SLOVO Editorial board is optimistic about the potential rendered by this new online presence. It is our hope that publishing the journal in this free and easily accessible format will expand our readership while also contributing to the democratization of the consumption of academic research.

We begin SLOVO's digital phase with an issue that sheds new light on the complex and persisting history contained within the region. In 'Being a Jewish Writer under the Romanian Fascist Regime', Paula Ganga provides a literary biography of Romanian Jewish playwright, Mihail Sebastian, examining the effects of anti-Semitic legislation in 1940s Romania on his work. In the following article, 'Jewish Politics in the New Poland', Mateusz Zatoński interrogates through a historical lens the causes and outcomes of Jewish factionalism within the 1922 elections of Poland. In 'Coping with the Unwanted Past in Planned Socialist Towns', Rasa Balockaite applies social theory to investigate the manner in which former planned socialist towns in Lithuania and Poland employ their socialist heritage in contemporary processes of identity formation. The issue concludes, in conventional fashion, with a selection of book reviews of recent releases concerning the region.

I would like to express my gratitude to the many people who have worked to bring this issue to publication. The journal has been endowed this year with an uncharacteristically large Editorial Board of enthusiastic and hardworking General Editors. In particular, I would like to thank SLOVO's Managing Editor, Mateusz Zatoński, its Reviews Editor, Felix Jeschke, and its two Public Relations and Web Editors, Anna Engström and Elizabeth Peck, who have all dedicated an impressive amount of time to ensuring that SLOVO's transition into electronic format is a smooth one. I would also like to thank the academic referees who, in reviewing the articles submitted to the journal, have assisted SLOVO tremendously. Lastly, many thanks to our academic advisor, Alena Ledeneva, and former Executive Editor, Samuel Goff, for their ongoing advice and support.