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 AAAAS and the Center for Russian and East European Studies at Stanford University

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

**Benjamin Nathans**
Associate Professor,
University of Pennsylvania

**Slava Gerovitch**
Postdoctoral Researcher,
Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology at MIT

**honorable mention**

*From Newspeak to Cyberspeak* (MIT Press)

Benjamin Nathans’s 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 misunderstandings 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” (stiliga), 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 stiliga 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 (W/o)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 a Murdering Mother: Soviet Criminologists and Infanticide in Revolutionary Russia”

**Southwest Slavic Association**
Petre Petrov,
University of Pittsburgh

“The Freeze of Historicity in Thaw Cinema”