EDITORS’ PREVIEW

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We would like to extend our thanks to our guest editor, Kristen Ghodsee, for assembling such a fascinating set of articles for this special issue on consumption. Ghodsee’s personal journey as a “shopaholic” in Bulgaria leads the collection, and a preface by Daphne Berdahl lays out key issues of postsocialist bodies, social inequalities, and neoliberal ideology explored in the authors’ articles.

In our Open Forum this edition, we include four articles that examine modern subjectivities and identities in the postsocialist world. Alexander Tymczuk examines the continued significance of personal networks in post-Soviet Ukraine. Tymczuk is concerned to investigate both the persistence and transformation of blat relations; his ethnographic research reveals commonalities across quite different locations: both rurally-based and urban interlocutors, people who work in diverse locations (from the bazaar to NGOs) routinely engage in the personalization of exchange relations. Jarrett Zigon explores the crafting of ethical subjects in contemporary Russia, examining how Muscovites “work on themselves” by integrating prayer and secular self-help practices in their everyday lives. Andrei Simic draws on interviews with Serbian refugees to examine the ways the current and future prosperity of Serbia is imagined. These narratives reveal a pronounced perception of anti-Serbian bias on the part of the international community and a sense of betrayal and loss. Finally, Olga Gurova examines official discourses on consumption in the Soviet period, from the immediate post-revolutionary period to the 1980s. Her analysis reveals the extent to which clothing, style and personal appearance came under the scrutiny of the state throughout the Soviet period.

We would like to extend our warm thanks to Robert Rotenberg for his ongoing work maintaining the AEER website at De Paul University and to Lisa Hilt for her outstanding work assisting us with journal correspondence, administration, editing, production, and distribution throughout the school year. Special thanks go to the Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA) at the University of Massachusetts for providing the resources for research and editorial assistance and to the Department of Anthropology for providing overhead support for the journal.

CALL FOR PAPERS

FALL 2007 SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF EAST EUROPE REVIEW

“Roma and Gadje”
Deadline: 1 February 2007

Special issue of AEER on Roma and Gadje, scheduled for Fall 2007. We are seeking papers that consider the ways individuals and communities negotiate, resist and reproduce the places Roma occupy in non-Romani spheres, as well as sociological analyses of the lifeworlds and counterpublics of Roma. Interdisciplinary contributions reflecting sustained ethnographic or archival engagement with Romani communities in Eastern Europe are particularly welcome. Yasar Abu Ghosh, Krista Hegburg, and Shannon Woodcock, the guest editors, would especially like to encourage activists, scholars from the region, and junior scholars, including post-fieldwork graduate students, to contribute to this volume. Interested parties should contact Krista Hegburg for further information at: kmh55@columbia.edu.

Papers should be 3,000-8,000 words (including all endnotes and references) and be sent as electronic submissions as a Microsoft Word .doc (or as an .rtf file) to: kmh55@columbia.edu.