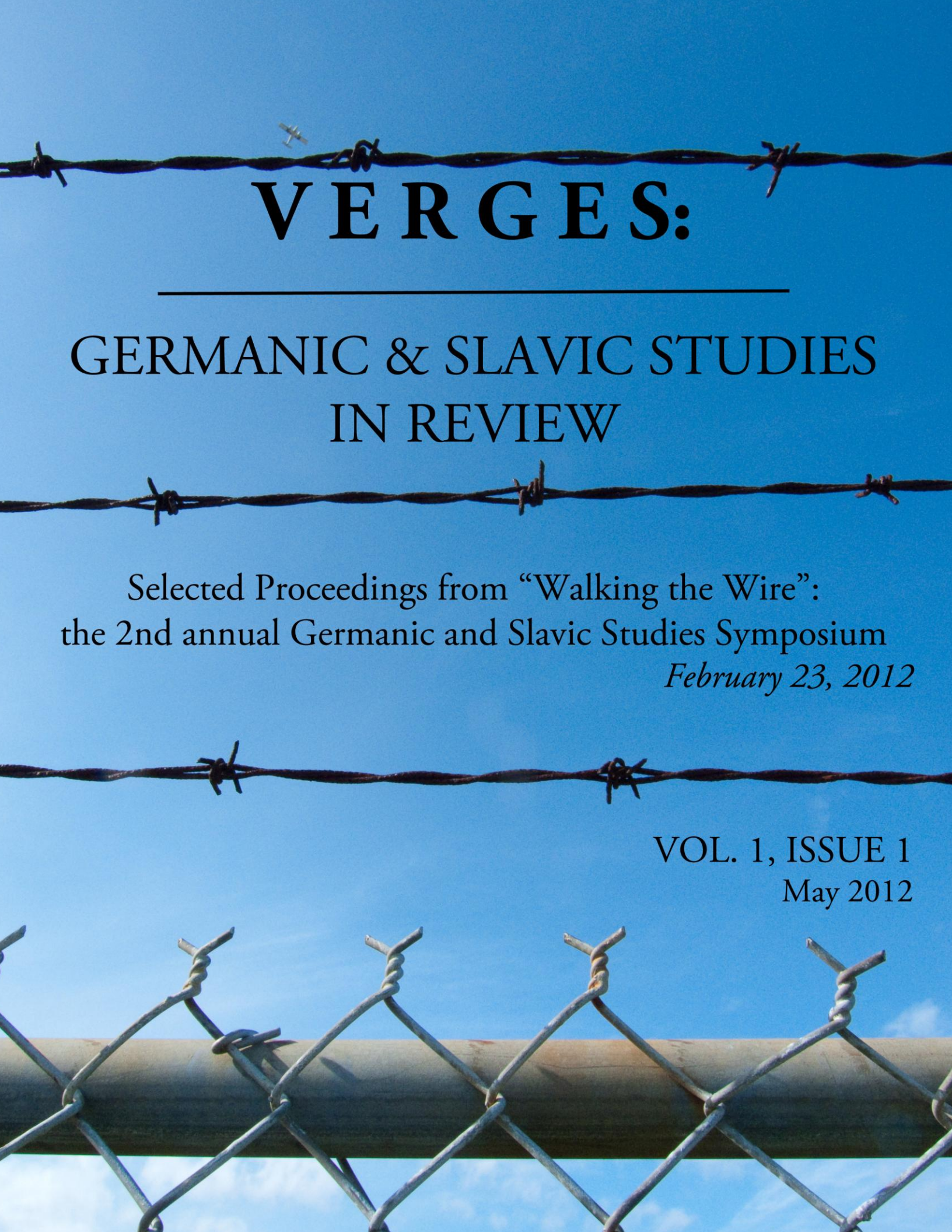




VERGES:

GERMANIC & SLAVIC STUDIES IN REVIEW

Selected Proceedings from “Walking the Wire”:
the 2nd annual Germanic and Slavic Studies Symposium
February 23, 2012

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***Verges: Germanic & Slavic Studies in Review
of the University of Victoria***

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**Proceedings from “Walking the Wire”: the 2nd
Germanic and Slavic Studies graduate student
symposium
and an undergraduate student article.**

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VERGES: GERMANIC & SLAVIC STUDIES IN REVIEW

An Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of *Verges: Germanic & Slavic Studies in Review*, the graduate student journal affiliated with the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Victoria. *Verges* is an online, open-access and peer-reviewed journal for students who research issues that pertain to Germanic and/or Slavic Studies. This issue contains proceedings from “Walking the Wire”: the 2nd annual graduate student symposium and also an undergraduate student paper that discusses the “uncanny” in several of Andrei Tarkovsky’s films.

This journal began half a year ago as an inspiration, a desire to share the research presented at our department’s graduate student symposium with the scholarly community. As graduate students, we felt the need for our peers to publish their work and contribute to the scholarly discussion in their fields. This need transformed itself into *Verges: Germanic & Slavic Studies in Review*. Yet, as Germanic and Slavic Studies is inherently interdisciplinary, the authors published in our first issue draw from areas such as Linguistics, Translation Studies and Anthropology. Our journal’s aim

is to challenge and expand the borders of our field of study through the scholarship included in *Verges*.

First and foremost, this journal is a venture of love. It is a vision produced by eager students who met and emailed often to create this venue for publication. Little did we know that this journal was to become an undertaking that put us on a ride not unlike starting a thesis or learning a new language. Nobody could quite prepare us for the challenges we were about to face or the research and time required to build a successful journal. We worked from the ground up and from scratch, paving the way for future editors and authors. In this issue, I believe, we have successfully brought together an invaluable collection of research that contains insightful ideas that would often be placed into a student's back drawer and forgotten.

The publication of this issue is the result of a dedicated editorial team. In particular, we would like to thank Irene Peinhopf, the main organizer of "Walking the Wire" for her diligent work and effort towards organizing the symposium and also for her invaluable help with the journal. Also to the reviewers and editors who made the journal possible – thank you. We would like to thank Dr. Elena Pnevmonidou and Dr. Volha Isakava for their help and support during the journal's creation and also the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies for its support as we worked on this initiative. This process would have been lacking without the assistance of Inba Kehoe, Copyright Officer and Scholarly Communication Librarian at McPherson Library, University of Victoria. Finally, we thank our contributing authors for their fine contribution to the ongoing discourse in interdisciplinary topics related to Germanic and Slavic Studies.

I have been honored to serve as the Managing Editor for this issue and have enjoyed working alongside the editorial team to establish a space for students to publish their work. I look forward to the coming issues in the years ahead and envisage continued expansion through future articles, the development of new projects and the inclusion of more graduate students in the editorial process. I truly hope that you enjoy the inaugural issue of *Verges: Germanic & Slavic Studies in Review*.

Dorota Lockyer, Managing Editor
April 30, 2012
Victoria, B.C.

WALKING THE WIRE: LANGUAGE – CULTURE – IDENTITY

An Introduction

The title of the second Germanic and Slavic Studies graduate student symposium at first evokes an image, undoubtedly diverse in its precise detail, but also intrinsically the same: a rope strung between two points, a daring individual ready to cross between the two spaces, perhaps with a pole in hand, perhaps only with arms outstretched. To walk on a wire implies an act of balance, an attempt to traverse a certain distance in a state of great concentration and care. Distraction would lead to a fall. It is a precarious undertaking, challenging and, depending on the height of the wire, dangerous. In terms of the scholarship presented at this conference, “Walking the Wire” becomes a phrase that connotes an awareness of the tightrope journey between disparate but inextricably connected ideas found in the second part of the symposium’s title: “Language – Culture – Identity.”

On February 23, 2012, eleven presenters walked across the tightrope of language, culture and identity, with great and careful balance, with eloquence. On the surface, the topics traversed appear disconnected, a hodgepodge survey of Germanic and Slavic studies scholarship combined through the organizers’ whimsy rather than any coherence of content. And yet, the papers, which ranged from literary studies, to translation studies, to film studies, to historical studies and to linguistic studies, came together in the space of the tightrope: language – culture – identity. In each presentation, the search for identity emerged, whether through linguistics, or film and literature, or history.

This liminal position, the moment of walking the wire, is represented in the four papers included in this inaugural issue of the new graduate student journal, *Verges*.

Superficially, “Such a Tiny Little Thing: Diminutive Meanings in *Alice in Wonderland* as a Comparative Translation Study of English, Polish, Russian and Czech” by Dorota Lockyer, “Language Revitalization in Ukraine: Geo-Culturally Determined Success” by Andrew McKishnie, “Constructing Identity: Roma in Contemporary Ukraine” by Maria

Konstantinova and my own “Ellen and Greta on the Deathbed: Representations of Death and Agency in F.W. Murnau’s *Nosferatu: Eine Symphonie des Grauens* (1922) and E. Elias Merhige’s *Shadow of the Vampire* (2000),” present distinct ideas within a diverse range of topics covered under the rubric of Germanic and Slavic Studies. While there is some overlap – linguistic considerations in the papers by Dorota Lockyer and Andrew McKishnie, or discussions of Ukraine – the thread that connects these four papers is identity. In each, the author seeks to understand how language, politics, linguistic policies or artistic representations create, manipulate and complicate notions of identity, both on the level of the individual and the level of the community. They all “walk the wire” and do so successfully.

Serving as the lead organizer for the first two Germanic and Slavic Studies graduate student conferences has been a great honour for me. And in closing this introduction to the inaugural issue of another exciting student-led venture, *Verges*, I want to express two final thoughts. The first is my hope that the annual graduate student conference will continue in years to come, alongside *Verges*, as a platform for the exciting research of this diverse field of study. The second is my gratitude. There are many people to thank for their support of “Walking the Wire:” first and foremost, the participants, without whose willingness to present their scholarship there would have been no conference and no journal; also, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies for fostering the community of students and faculty that has led to the creation of an annual symposium and a student journal; the Graduate Student Society at the University of Victoria for hosting our event and being patient with our questions; Dr. Helga Thorson for getting us started on this journey and Dr. Elena Pnevmonidou for keeping us going; my fellow students for the hours they spent in helping to organize the event, in particular Ryan Severyn for designing posters and representing us to the GSS, and Tamara Tobler for volunteering to act as panel moderator; and, finally, Dorota Lockyer for taking the initiative and organizing *Verges*. Thank you all.

Irene Peinhopf
 April 23, 2012
 Victoria, B. C.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Conference Proceedings

MARIA KONSTANTINOVA

Maria Konstantinova is an interdisciplinary M.A. candidate in the Departments of Slavic Studies and Anthropology, conducting research on Roma Holocaust Memory within Ukraine and Western Russia. She recently gave a paper at the Fifth bi-annual International Graduate Symposium in Ukrainian Studies, at the University of Toronto.

DOROTA LOCKYER

Dorota Lockyer is an M.A. candidate in the Germanic and Slavic Studies department at the University of Victoria. Her thesis research examines cultural and linguistic features in Polish, Russian and Czech translations of *Alice in Wonderland* that are often considered 'untranslatable'. Her general research interests include translation and the translated text, Slavic and English languages, literary linguistics and language acquisition.

ANDREW MCKISHNIE

Andrew McKishnie started learning Russian while completing his B.A. in Linguistics from the University of Western Ontario (2011). He is currently completing his M.A. in Linguistics at the University of Victoria, focusing on the syntax and phonology of both the Russian and Ukrainian languages.

IRENE PEINHOPF

Irene Peinhopf is an M.A. candidate in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. Her thesis work analyses the relationship between Ludwig Tieck's "Der Runenberg" and F. W. Murnau's film *Nosferatu: Eine Symphonie des Grauens*. Her general research interests include feminist and gender studies, Romanticism, and also horror in literature and film.

Undergraduate Articles

DANIEL MCFADDEN

Daniel McFadden is an English student with an interest in Film Studies. In particular, he enjoys using a combination of literary theory and formal film theory to forge new interpretations of the filmic medium.