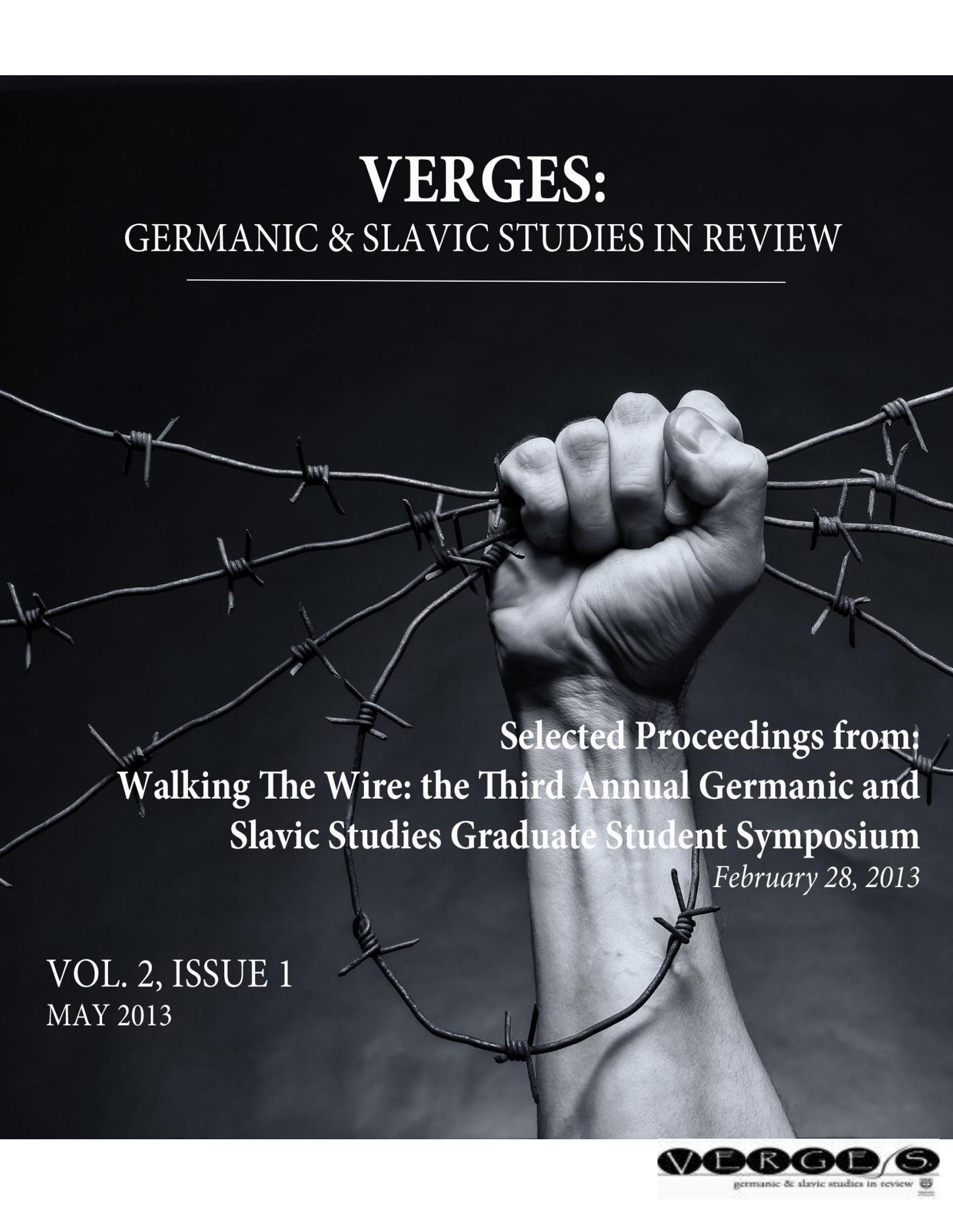


VERGES:

GERMANIC & SLAVIC STUDIES IN REVIEW



Selected Proceedings from:
**Walking The Wire: the Third Annual Germanic and
Slavic Studies Graduate Student Symposium**
February 28, 2013

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

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SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM ISSUE

**Proceedings from “Walking the Wire”: the 3rd Germanic
and Slavic Studies graduate student symposium
and an undergraduate student article.**

Published by the graduate students
of the University of Victoria Germanic and Slavic Studies Department

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VERGES: GERMANIC & SLAVIC STUDIES IN REVIEW 2.1

Welcome to the first issue of the second volume 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 a selection of peer-reviewed proceedings from “Walking the Wire”: the 3rd annual graduate student symposium and also an undergraduate student paper that discusses immigration and integration in the Baltic States.

The publication of this issue is the result of a dedicated editorial team. In particular, I would like to thank Zola Kell, 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 copyeditors who made the journal possible – thank you. Finally, I would like to thank the 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 this first issue of the second volume of *Verges: Germanic & Slavic Studies in Review*.

Dorota Lockyer, Managing Editor
May 15, 2013
Victoria, B.C.

**WALKING THE WIRE:
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPEAN CULTURAL
CONTEMPLATIONS IN THE MODERN AGE**

An Introduction

The third incarnation of the annual Germanic and Slavic graduate student symposium marked the beginning of what, I hope, will be a new kind of rapport among graduate students Canada-wide whose interests intersect with the scholarship being done in Germanic and Slavic studies. In recognition of the image evoked by our successful symposium last year, the conference committee elected to retain the title for our symposium – “Walking the Wire.” The implications inherent to this image – for a wire between two points is a bridge to be crossed, albeit one that requires much concentration and focus – reflect what this discipline necessitates: a level of dedication and care.

This year, on February 28th, 2013, our eleven presenters sought to traverse the link between the now and what came before - to study the present through the lens of the past. They took the time to acknowledge and appreciate the histories that inform current scholarship; to draw connections between the background and foreground and explore their potential.

We moved from German Romanticism forward, looking at how it informed and influenced texts ranging from the Cold War to one published just last year. We looked at the study of traumatic memory, and how it requires a host of tools to navigate through the social and cultural implications it brings out. We looked at generational connections, exploring how to negotiate the responsibility of telling the stories of those who came before. And ultimately we sought to look at contemporary narratives and media with an eye to how best to move Germanic and Slavic scholarship into the future. Our presenters traversed the path between past and present gracefully, and we are so grateful to them for sharing their scholarship at this event.

This year, I stepped into the role of lead organizer for the third Germanic and Slavic symposium. Taking over from Irene Peinhof

(congratulations on defending, Irene!) has been an incredible learning experience for me, and I am so grateful for her patience and tutelage as I attempted to follow in her footsteps. Thank you for everything, Irene. I wish to conclude my introduction to these conference proceedings by first declaring my confidence that, not only will our annual conference continue, but that it will keep growing and our scope will broaden further as we receive guests from outside the discipline and from outside the University of Victoria. And secondly, let me end with my many thanks to all of those who aided and abetted in making this symposium such a success. Thank you to all the presenters; you are the heart and soul of this event and truly, we are grateful for your participation and vision. Thank you, also, to the Graduate Students Society for hosting the event and granting us financial support. Thank you to the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies for all your support and encouragement, as well as being such a welcoming environment for students from all disciplines and arenas. Every member of the Department's faculty and staff deserves a shout-out for the help and inspiration they have fostered. Finally, I wish to thank my colleagues – my fellow graduate students – for all your emails, words of wisdom, and consideration and thoughtfulness as we forged ahead in this venture. We have been a great team and I am looking forward to the year ahead! Thank you especially Dorota Lockyer, for this beautiful and valuable journal. Your hard work in creating a forum to showcase this work is truly appreciated. Thank you all.

Zola Kell
March 22, 2013
Victoria, B.C.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Conference Proceedings

KIM DILLON

Kim Dillon has a B.A. in European History with a minor in Film Studies from the University of Victoria and is now an M.A. Candidate in the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University. Her research focuses on the emerging Russian identity as portrayed in Russian art cinema.

KEVIN ELLIOTT

Kevin Elliott is an MA student in English and Cultural, Social, & Political Thought at the University of Victoria. He received his BA (Hons.) in Cultural Studies & Critical Theory and Political Science from McMaster University. He blogs for *Huffington Post* and his paper “Symbolic Violence and the 2011 England Riots” is published in *Illumine*.

MELANIE KAGE

Melanie Kage got her B.A. in German Studies and Media and Communication Studies at the University of Mannheim, Germany in 2007. Her M. A. in Language and Culture was received at the University of Linköping, Sweden in 2010. Since 2011, she is a Ph.D. student at the University of British Columbia with research interest in equine cultural studies, blog literature, female authorship and ecocriticism.

Undergraduate Articles

MARINA BEST

Marina Best successfully completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Germanic Studies with a concentration in European Studies,

from the University of Victoria. Her research interests are concentrated on European integration and immigration, more specifically how Europeanization has affected these two processes.