AWSS Conference April 10, 2014

The city of Atlanta wore its full spring finery for the 6th Biennial AWSS conference, the theme of which was “Gender and Revolution.” The all-day event took place the day before the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. The well-timed pairing of the two conferences allowed AWSS participants to continue their intellectual connections and discussions beyond the conference itself. Everyone who attended agreed on the high quality of all eleven presentations.

The conference attracted a diverse array of scholars representing different disciplines and institutions both in North America and abroad. While their papers focused mainly on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the topics that were addressed ranged broadly, from internment policies toward oppositionists during Hungary’s White Counter-Revolution in 1919-1920 to recent women’s writing in Russia and women’s political participation in Uzbekistan. The culmination of the conference was the fascinating and insightful keynote address by Janet Johnson, professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College-CUNY, on “Revolutionizing Gender Studies.”

AWSS owes a very large debt of gratitude to Board member Sharon Kowalsky, who originally proposed and planned the conference, and to AWSS President Karen Petrone, who together with Sharon developed the excellent program and made the flawless arrangements. Building on the success of this year’s conference, the next AWSS conference will again take place at the time of the Southern Conference, this time in Lexington, Kentucky, in early March, 2015. All AWSS members are encouraged to consider presenting their research at this meeting, where intellectual rigor and lively debate take place in an atmosphere of mutual support and encouragement.