

## **Field Report**

### **UC BERKELEY CASE-CRRC FIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

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During my study visit at the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley within the UC Berkeley CASE-CRRC Field Development Project I had the great opportunity to work under my course syllabus with help of the academic environment of the leading universities in the world – UC Berkeley, which had traditions and experience in that area.

In the last three decades “the new cultural history” has moved to the center of the historical discipline, presenting a host of new possibilities as well as new challenges. It has brought pressure to bear on older historical methodologies and opened up exciting new avenues of research and analysis. And it has stimulated heated controversy among historians about its methods and results.

Originally the main goal of my course was to show the changes of scientific paradigms. The course consisted of the following sets:

Historical Anthropology: the emergence, the main directions, the heuristic value

The emergence of a new cultural-centric paradigm of modern historical science

Historical Imagination and Representation

From the Representations to the Construction of Representations of the Past

But during the further work on the Syllabus the structure of the course was significantly transformed and the aim of the course was concretized. Victoria Bonnell who is a recognized authority in that field significantly helped me. She asked me to look at the problem from a different point of view. The ideas of the participants of the discussion during the Workshop organized in the Berkeley ISEEEES were also very helpful. With a professional assistance of the whole staff of the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley I was able to access and consult the most relevant and important sources for my course development. Edward Walker, Victoria Bonnell, Yuri Slezkine, with the participation of professors John Connelly and Mark Brilliant helped me to make the structure and the themes of the syllabus more precise.

Now I would like to offer a new course. I’ve followed the advice of Victoria Bonnell and the first part of the course “Emergence of The New Cultural History» will be reviewed through three discourses: Cultural Anthropology, Literary Theory, Social Science. Attention will also be

paid to Post-Structuralism (Foucault) and Cultural Studies. New Cultural History "discovered" new themes that needed for new concepts. Next block will include some examples "How does it work".

Intensive communication with a team of local scholars put me in a better position with regard to teaching, methodology, and content, which I have already shared with colleagues and students at my home university.

Secondly, I had an opportunity to familiarize myself with the social science teaching methodology, and to adopt some approaches. I visited seminars of V. Bonnell on the sociology of everyday life. The participation to several classes and seminars of the bachelors and masters courses and the Syllabus workshop was very important for my future teaching. Now I will to apply the reading oriented seminars methodology and combine it with the discussions.

I have established some professional ties with the specialists from the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies. They are very important for me as for a specialist dealing with issues of Soviet and post-Soviet anthropology, new cultural history. Besides of the specialists of the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ISEEEES), I have met many other professors of the University first of all- Ann Swedler. Her significant professional experience helped me to ultimately clarify the everyday life framework, the teaching methodology and to enlarge the bibliography.

The participation in this program has a strong impact on my future academic and scholarly activities.

Last but not least, I had an opportunity to learn more about publications concerning the problems I am studying; I had a chance to use the University libraries and to get some books through Amazon. Now I have got the fullest and the most comprehensible reading lists on the topic the possible, and the books themselves not only for me but also for my students and other young researchers in Belarus

I am grateful to the UC Berkeley (and particularly at the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) for the opportunity given to me, for a great atmosphere I was working in, and for the all help that was given to me.