

2014 Outstanding Achievement Award

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2014 Outstanding Achievement Award is **Diane Koenker**, Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was the director of the Russian and East European Center at the University of Illinois from 1990 to 1996, and served as the editor of *Slavic Review* from 1996 to 2006. Last year, she served as president of the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies after having served this organization in many other roles. A distinguished scholar, valued mentor, collaborative colleague, and advocate for gender research and women's place in academia, Dr. Koenker embodies the scholarly and collegial values espoused by the AWSS.

Dr. Koenker has generated path-breaking scholarship that has contributed significantly to modern Russian history, specifically in the fields of women's and labor history. She has published four monographs, six edited books, and numerous articles. Her dissertation project and first book, *Moscow Workers and the 1917 Revolution*, was one of the first works to explore questions of gender and family in the Soviet context. Throughout her career, she has insisted in her scholarship and in the classroom that gender history not be isolated from the field of Russian history, but inform and be informed by its broader research themes and methodologies. She continues to make gender a central mode of analysis even as she explores new themes, having recently published *Club Red: Vacation Travel and the Soviet Dream*, a monograph on Soviet tourism and leisure and its relation to family, gender, and sex.

Whether in collaborative research projects, in her department, or among her students, Dr. Koenker pursues collaborative relationships by creating an environment that encourages mutual support and critique, and by demonstrating the value of respectful dialogue. Former doctoral students of Professor Koenker call her "a model supervisor." Many of her students are grateful for the way that she encouraged them to pursue research topics and ideas that interested them, while generously offering training and expertise in methodology. Her doctoral students have succeeded not just due to her guidance in graduate school, but also beyond it, as she willingly supplied recommendations and advice for the job market, promotions, and grant competitions. She encouraged and pushed her students to achieve their best while modelling a well-balanced life and attention to aspects of life beyond the academy. Many female students praise her as "an unparalleled role model for women in the academy," citing instances of Dr. Koenker's encouragement and defense of their place in academia.

Dr. Koenker has throughout her career worked on the issues central to the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. Not only has her research been "deeply attentive to questions of gender," but she has also questioned and worked against gender inequities in the field of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. She has also forged new paths, becoming the first female editor of *Slavic Review*.

For her scholarly achievements, her advocacy of women's and gender studies, and her generous mentorship of students and fellow scholars, we honor Professor Koenker with the AWSS Outstanding Achievement Award.