

## Previous Naylor Lectures

- 1998 May 28 “Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans” by V. Friedman
- 1999 April 7 “In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans” by R. Alexander
- 2000 May 19 “What is a Standard Language Good For, and Who Gets to Have One?” by W. Browne
- 2001 May 25 “The Balkan Linguistic League, ‘Orientalism,’ and Linguistic Typology” by H. Aronson
- 2002 May 24 “Minority Language Rights in Primary Education: A Century of Change in the Balkans” by C. Kramer
- 2003 May 2 “The Anthropocentric Case Theory: How is Man Realized in the Discourse” by Z. Topolinska
- 2004 May 28 “The Structure of the *Deseterac*—The Metre of Serbian Epic Poetry” by I. Lehiste
- 2005 April 29 “Discourse Markers as Balkanisms” by G. Fielder
- 2006 April 28 “From Phonological Analysis at My Desk to Linguistic Activism with Slovene in the Austrian Alps” by T. Priestly
- 2007 April 27 “Why We Need History in Balkan Linguistics” by B. Joseph
- 2008 April 25 “Language Planning in the Yugoslav Successor States: New Languages and Old Controversies” by R. Greenberg
- 2009 May 18 “The Line, the *Which*, and the War Trope” by M. Greenberg
- 2010 April 16 “An Appreciation of Eric Hamp,” by V. Friedman & B. Joseph, standing in for (an ill) Eric Hamp and his planned lecture: “South Slavic and its Neighbors—Distant Past and Present”
- 2011 April 15 “The New Bulgarian: Turkisms and Europeanisms in the Language of *Bai Ganyo* and *Nov Zhivot*” by C. Rudin
- 2012 April 27 “Action Heroes: The English NN Construction across the South Slavic Languages” by C. Vakareliyska
- 2013 March 22 “The Rise of Modern Bulgarian Literacy in the Seventeenth Century: New Facts and Interpretations” by O. Mladenova
- 2014 April 11 “Reimagining the Balkans and Widening the Bund: Does Moldova Belong?” by D. Dyer
- 2015 March 6 “Observations on the Lexicon of the Earliest Macedonian Vernacular Gospels (Konikovo and Kulakia Gospels)” by J. Schallert
- 2016 April 1 “Do We Really Write in a More Complex Way than We Speak? The Case of Bulgarian” by J. Leafgren
- 2017 Jan. 20-21 “The Current State of Balkan Linguistics—Where Do We Stand?”: A conference with all past Naylor Lecturers
- 2018 March 30 “Language Planning and its Limits: The Case of Croatian” by K. Langston
- 2019 April 5 “Greek Dialect Features in the Speech of Greek Canadians: An Unexpected Treasure Trove” by P. Pappas
- 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID
- 2021 April 2 “Cappadocian (Asia Minor Greek): The Life and Times of a Language Once Believed Extinct” by M. Janse

## TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL KENNETH E. NAYLOR MEMORIAL LECTURE IN SOUTH SLAVIC LINGUISTICS

**ANDREY N. SOBOLEV**  
*Russian Academy of Sciences &  
Philipps-University of Marburg*

## TORLAK IN THE SLAVIC FAMILY AND THE BALKAN SPRACHBUND: LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

**Friday, April 8, 2022  
at 11:00 a.m.  
(NOTE THE TIME)**

**Virtual via Zoom  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio**

## The Lecture

Balkanization, as the spread of innovative Sprachbund linguistic properties, is a process which develops diachronically in the history of every Balkan language, diatopically in their dialect continua and diastatically between their social groups. The Torlak dialect area, one of the heavily balkanized but still archaic parts of the South Slavic linguistic space, presents a well-known challenge for descriptive and explanatory models of Slavic and Balkan language studies. Which glottonym is most appropriate for it? Which Slavic language does it belong to if it doesn't represent an individual linguistic entity? What are its ethnic composition and dialectal subdivisions, and further, does it disintegrate by being divided by actual political borders between Serbia, North Macedonia and Bulgaria? Does the basic traditional dialect survive until today in a kind of diglossia with the standard, or is it being replaced by regiolects in diatopic situations? What were the mechanisms of its balkanization in history and did a substrate play any role in its formation if at all? The methods of linguistic research, such as descriptive dialectology, areal linguistics, comparative Balkan studies, text analysis, border and migration linguistics and others, in their traditional and especially in their contemporary digital form (digital atlases, text corpora), allow us to definitely solve at least some of the problems and to develop instruments for further progress towards a deeper understanding of this part of the Slavic and Balkan space.

## The Speaker

Andrey Nikolaevich Sobolev, born in 13 July 1965 in Leningrad, USSR (now St. Petersburg, Russia), is a Russian linguist and a specialist in Slavic and Balkan languages and cultures. He graduated from Leningrad State University in Slavic philology in 1987 and in the same year entered the Leningrad branch of the Institute for Linguistics (now Institute for Linguistic Research) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where he has been continuously working for 35 years, now holding the position of a chief

researcher in the field of Slavic and Balkan linguistics.

His dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Sciences “On the History of the Declension Loss in Balkan Slavic” (1991) was supervised by Agniya Vassilyevna Desnitskaya. Since 1993 and simultaneously to his activities at the Russian Academy of Sciences, he has been serving abroad, mainly in Germany and Austria. He obtained a doctor habilitatus degree in 1997 from the University of Marburg (Germany) for his 3-volume digital linguistic atlas *Sprachatlas Ostserbiens und Westbulgariens* (published 1998) and an extranumeral professor title in 2003.

He has been a researcher at the University of Marburg (1993-1995, 1999-2007) and at the Balkan-Kommission of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2008-2010), a professor at the University of Salzburg in Austria (2007-2008) and University of Jena in Germany (2009-2010). He was guest researcher at Surrey University, Ohio State University, Munich University, and CNRS, as well as academic institutions in Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Albania.

Between 2010 and 2019 he held a position of full professor for Slavic and Balkan linguistics at the St. Petersburg State University in Russia. He successfully supervised three PhD projects in the field of Slavic and Balkan linguistics.

Since 2017 he has been a member of the Russian National Committee of Slavists. From 1999 to 2019, he served as a deputy chairman of the Commission for Balkan linguistics at the International Committee of Slavists.

His research has been supported by grants provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, President of the Russian Federation, Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Russian Foundation for Humanities, Russian Foundation for Basic Research, and Russian Science Foundation.

From 2015 to 2018 he served as a member of the Scientific Council of the Ministry of High Education and Sciences of Russia. He was also

awarded a medal of the Ministry for his contribution to the Russia's state politics in humanities in 2021. In 2019 he was awarded the St. Petersburg Government's Prize for outstanding results in scientific research.

He has published a dozen books and monographs with de Gruyter Mouton, Oxford University Press, Verlag Otto Sagner München, Verlag Holzhausen, and Nauka Publishers. His major continuing enterprise since 1996 is the *Minor Linguistic Atlas of the Balkan Languages*, with 9 volumes of maps and 6 monographic descriptions of local dialects of Bulgarian, Albanian and Aromanian published so far. His *Foundations of Linguocultural Anthropogeography of the Balkan Peninsula* appeared in 2013, and in 2021 he edited and co-authored *Between Separation and Symbiosis: Southeastern European Languages and Cultures in Contact*. Also in 2021 he edited and co-authored the critical edition of the 11th c. Old Church Slavonic glagolitic *Psalterium Demetrii Sinaitici*.



Andrey Sobolev, Ghent University

### **The Professorship**

The Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics was established November 5, 1993 in the College of Humanities through gifts to The Ohio State University from the estate of Dr. Naylor. The professorship, a five-year renewable

appointment, is dedicated to preserving and continuing the scholarly legacy of Dr. Naylor. Professor Brian D. Joseph was named the first Kenneth E. Naylor Professor in 1997 (renewed four times since then). He now holds joint appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.



Brian D. Joseph, first and current Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics

### **Brian D. Joseph**

Born in New York in 1951, Dr. Joseph earned a B.A. at Yale University (1973) and an M.A. (1976) and Ph.D. (1978) in Linguistics at Harvard University, with a year in Greece for dissertation research. After a Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Alberta, he began in 1979 at The Ohio State University in Linguistics, where he has been ever since, becoming full professor in 1988, and serving as department Chair for a decade (1987-97). Dr. Joseph has received various honors, including a University Distinguished Professorship (2003), a Fulbright Research Award (Greece, 1987), presidency of the Linguistic Society of America (2019), election as a member of the American Philosophical Society and the Academia Europaea, fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the currently held Naylor Professorship. Professor Joseph's scholarly focus is on historical linguistics, and the

latter history of Greek, especially in relation to its Balkan neighbors, including the South Slavic languages. His work explores language contact, multilingualism, and linguistic convergence and change in the Balkans, a research area of great interest also to Dr. Naylor. Author or co-author of 6 books and editor or co-editor of 30 books or special journal issues, Professor Joseph's publications include numerous works on Balkan linguistics. His book with Victor Friedman, the first Naylor Lecturer (1998), entitled *The Balkan Languages* (Cambridge University Press) is due out next year.

### **Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr.**

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr., was born on February 27, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in French Linguistics from Cornell University in 1958, and his M.A. in General Linguistics from Indiana University in 1960. At Indiana, he began to study Slavic with Professor Edward Stankiewicz, who became a personal friend and mentor. When Professor Stankiewicz moved to the University of Chicago, Kenneth Naylor went with him. There he received his doctorate in Russian and South Slavic linguistics in 1966, becoming most likely the first African-American Slavist. Dr. Naylor was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1964 to 1966. In 1966, he began teaching Slavic linguistics at The Ohio State University. At the time of his death on March 10, 1992, Dr. Naylor was the Acting Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at Ohio State. Dr. Naylor was the recipient of numerous awards, grants and fellowships from many sources, including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright program, and the countries of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, from which he was awarded medals of honor (the Jubilee Medal and the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Golden Wreath, respectively). In 1990, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia and the development of the Serbo-Croatian language. Dr. Naylor's research centered on the Serbo-Croatian language and on South Slavic linguistics in general. He served as editor of the journals *Balkanistica*, *Folia Slavica*, and *The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*. The overwhelming majority of his seventy articles focused on Serbo-Croatian and

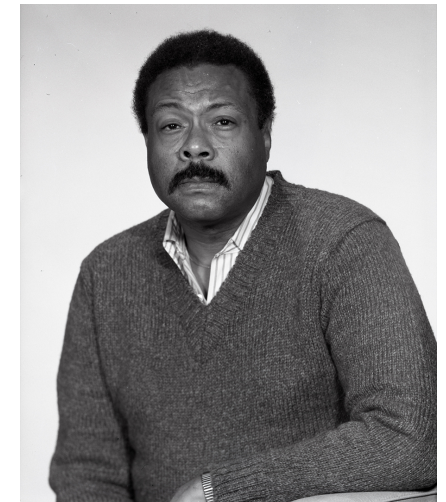
Balkan linguistics. His dedication and many accomplishments live on in his work and in the love of the field he instilled in his students.

### **The Lecture Series**

As part of the Naylor Professorship, Professor Joseph established an annual Lecture on South Slavic Linguistics in Kenneth Naylor's memory that brings leading scholars in the field to OSU each Spring for a public lecture.

Naylor Lectures 1-3 (1998-2000) have been published in the Naylor Memorial Lecture Monograph Series (The Ohio State University); Beech Stave Press brought out #4 (Aronson) in 2007, #5 (Kramer) in 2010; and #6 (Topolińska) in 2014. SEESA (Southeast European Studies Association), working through *Balkanistica*, published #8 (Priestly) in 2014, and #9 (Hamp) in 2015; #7 (Lehiste) will come out later this year, with other volumes to follow.

A special publication emerging from the Naylor Lecture Series is the volume based on the presentations at the January 2017 twentieth anniversary Naylor Memorial conference. It contains papers by each of the first 19 Naylor lecturers. The volume was published in 2019 as *Balkanistica* 32.1.



The late, distinguished professor of South Slavic linguistics, Dr. Kenneth E. Naylor  
Photo courtesy of the University Archives, Ohio State