



THE FIFTH BIENNIAL JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY CONFERENCE
Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
June 1–5, 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Fifth Biennial John Updike Society Conference will be the first one outside the U.S. In 1978 Updike visited Belgrade, then the capital of Yugoslavia and now the capital of Serbia. Attendees will see some of the places Updike visited, along with a day trip devoted to exploring the multilayered cultural riches in other nearby Serbian cities. The conference celebrates translations and Updike abroad, with Ian McEwan delivering the opening keynote and Updike's Bulgarian translator, Alexander Shurbanov, also offering a keynote talk. Among the receptions is one to be hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Serbia.

Papers on ANY aspect of John Updike's work or life will be considered, but topics that are especially appropriate for this conference are:

- Translations: histories, methods, relation to an author's reputation, human elements and biases, censorship issues, etc.
- Updike and Traveling (inside and outside the U.S.) as both real-life experience and fictional motive/inspiration
- Updike in the U.S.S.R.: his reception, bibliographies, interview(s), translations; Updike in (Post) Socialist Countries
- Updike and Religion(s) and Ideologies (socialism, pacifism, etc.)
- Updike and Gender or Ethnic Politics
- Coming of Age / Aging in Updike's Fiction
- Intertextuality in Updike's Fiction
- Comparative Perspectives (Updike and Laclos, Proust, Joyce, Danilo Kiš, Ian McEwan, etc.)
- Papers on works celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2018: *Couples* (50th), *The Coup* (40th), *S.* (30th), *Collected Poems* and *Love Factories* (25th), *Bech at Bay* (20th), and *The Widows of Eastwick* (10th)

Scholars may also wish to consider the anniversaries of the translations of John Updike's works into their language, and do bring copies with you. At the end of the meeting we will donate these copies to [The John Updike Childhood Home](#) in Shillington, Pennsylvania.

Conference highlights:

- Opening keynote address by Ian McEwan, who knew Updike and is well known and widely translated in Serbia.
- A second keynote talk by Prof. Alexander Shurbanov, Updike's Bulgarian translator and also an accomplished writer and poet.
- Tracing Updike in Belgrade: a walking tour through Kalemegdan Fortress, Skadarlija bohemian quarter, with lunch at the Writer's Union Club and dinner in Skadarlija—a kind of hedonist mapping of Belgrade and reenactment of a tour the writer had taken 40 years before.
- Meeting Updike: a panel of the translators, journalists, writers, editors... who have met Updike on this and other trips.
- A one-day bust tour of Serbian sites: Oplenac (St. George's Church, Karadjordje's Museum), Viminacium (Roman ruins, mammoth park), and Smederevo Fortress (capital of Serbia in the Middle Ages, built 1427-30).
- Shorter tours of the Tesla Museum and Zemun, with visits to the Hotel Moscow (where Updike stayed) and the National Library, where the society will sponsor a public program on Updike and Politics

Proposal Deadline: January 31, 2018

One-page proposals for 15- to 20-minute papers on all aspects of Updike's life and work and especially suggested topics should be sent, along with a brief one- or two-paragraph bio, to conference director Biljana Dojčinović: jus5thconference@gmail.com and cc: jus5thconference@fil.bg.ac.rs

Successful proposals will be acknowledged within two weeks of receipt. To present a paper or moderate a panel at the conference, participants must be members of The John Updike Society and register for the conference.

Membership—\$30 regular, \$25 for students and retirees

Required in order to present or moderate at the conference, but everyone is encouraged to join the society. Membership includes all issues of *The John Updike Review* published during the calendar year. The society is inclusive and welcoming, with both academic and non-academic members.

Conference registration:

Full Registration—\$90

Includes all academic sessions, Belgrade tours and receptions, along with dinner in Zemun and a closing dinner in Skadarlija, where the Updikes dined. A commemorative conference t-shirt will be given to all full registrants.

Social Registration—\$75

Intended for spouses and traveling companions who accompany a society member to the conference and do not want to attend academic sessions, but would like to join the registrant for social events and tours. Social registration includes the Zemun and Skadarlija dinners, all receptions, Belgrade tours, admission to the Tesla Museum, coffee/cake at Hotel Moscow, and admission to the McEwan keynote and the program at the National Library (which are open to the public).

Sunday Bus Trip—\$45

Registrants have the option of exploring Belgrade on their own or taking this all-day bus tour of Serbian sites: Viminacium (Roman ruins, mammoth park), Smederevo Fortress (Built 1427-30, capital of Serbia in the Middle Ages), Tarposh winery and restaurant (lunch and a sampling of wines included), and a visit to Oplenac (St. George's Church, Karadjordje's Museum, Royal Winery). Admissions are included in the fee.

For membership information and additional information about The John Updike Society, see the society's website at <https://blogs.iwu.edu/johnupdikesociety/conference-registration/>.

The Society now accepts PayPal payments (johnupdikesociety@iwu.edu).

For general questions about the society, contact James Plath, jplath@iwu.edu.