



THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



October Events Review

After the summer break, the Dashkova Centre is back with a new series of research seminars. This October the seminars were focused on debating Russian discourses of historical memory. In addition, the October programme featured Russian film screenings and an international conference.



Our first research seminar on 10th of October was given by Dr Ilya Kalinin from Saint-Petersburg State University, who is a Calvert-Smolny Fellow at the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre. Dr Kalinin is

Associate Professor at the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Smolny College) at St Petersburg State University. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Neprikosnovennyi Zapas: Debaty o politike i kul'ture (NZ: Debates on Politics and Culture)*. In his talk Dr Kalinin discussed the problems of collective memory and 'post-Colonial challenges' in contemporary Russia. The talk was followed by a question and answer session with the audience.



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Montague Burton Lecture in International Relations

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The next event at the Dashkova Centre on 17th October was a research seminar held by Dr Valery Timofeev. Dr Timofeev is Associate Professor at the Department of the History of Western Literature, Saint-Petersburg State University. His major publications relate to the theory and history of literature and culture with special attention to the twentieth and twenty first century literary processes, Modernism and Post-Modernism. The theme of the seminar was a problem of historical

memory and local self-identity in two Russian towns – Kaliningrad and Vyborg, which town Dr Timofeev comes from himself. The large audience enjoyed a lively debate following the seminar.

On 25 and 26 of October, an international conference, entitled ‘Middle’ and ‘Creative’: Emerging Russian Social Groups in Language and Culture’ took place in the Centre. The conference was organized by the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre in collaboration with the Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow). The conference was attended by a number of scholars from Russia, the UK, and US among them researchers such as Helena Goscilo (The Ohio State University), Elena Trubina (Ural Federal University), Natalia Azarova (Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences), Elena Gapova (Western Michigan University), Tatiana Venediktova (Moscow State University) and Vera Zvereva (The Dashkova Russian Centre). In the conference academic papers were presented which focused on interdisciplinary investigation of the linguistic and cultural forms, codes and practices associated with the Russian ‘creative’/‘middle class’.



On 25th of October we hosted a group of Gymnasium students from Yekaterinburg (Russia). This initiative included visits to several universities and companies in GB to provide students with motivational experience and to help them to make informed and weighted decision about their place of study. Arnel Yver and Dr Luke March (The Dashkova Centre) gave a lecture to the students from Yekaterinburg entitled ‘International relations in the 21st century: still a game of major powers?’.



This October we also had two film screenings followed by discussion with Dr Luke March (The Dashkova Russian Centre). The first one was a documentary Winter, Go Away! (Zima, ukhodi!) by Mark Bevan. This film was a part of ‘Take One Action Film Festival’ and reflected the explosive political

climate in the months leading up to Vladimir Putin's third re-election. The film screening was followed by discussion with the film director Mark Bevan (Amnesty Scotland) and Dr Luke March.



Another film shown in October was a documentary 'My Perestroika' by Robin Hessman. The film described the lives of five ordinary Russians living in

extraordinary times — from their sheltered Soviet childhood, to the collapse of the Soviet Union. This film screening was also followed by discussion with Dr Luke March (The Dashkova Russian Centre).

The first November event was a 'The Edge of Words' seminar held in association with the Princess Dashkova Centre and Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies. Dr Inna Veselova from St Petersburg University gave a paper 'Mezen' Ornaments: Visual Order and Rural Ethos'. Dr Veselova is a specialist in Russian folklore and post-folklore (cultural anthropology). Her research interest include semantics and pragmatics of traditional folklore and ritual forms, contemporary urban folklore, narratology, studies of different folklore genres and texts (from oral and written to digital ones).

Dashkova Fellows Scheme

The **Dashkova fellows scheme** is running and in October 2013, we were hosting three visiting fellows: Dr Ilya Kalinin, Dr Valery Timofeev, both from St Petersburg University, and Dr Viktoria Merzliakova from The Russian State University for Humanities, Moscow.

Dr Timofeev's visit has now ended and he returned to St Petersburg. He found his fellowship very useful both for his own research on the problem of historical memory and local self-identity in Kaliningrad and Vyborg and for the further co-operation between Universities in Edinburgh and St Petersburg.

Dr Kalinin and Dr Merzliakova are continuing their visit to Edinburgh. Dr Kalinin, the Calvert-Smolny Visiting Fellow, is working on problems of collective memory in post-Soviet Russian and is actively participating in academic events organised not only by the Dashkova Centre and University of Edinburgh but also by other British Universities.

Dr Victoria Merzlyakova who is an assistant professor in the Department of the Theory and History of Culture (Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow) came to Dashkova Centre as a research fellow for a month. Her research interests include the contemporary Russian culture, language, and practices of middle, upper-middle and elite social culture in today's Russia. She works on a research project on the Russian constructions of new aristocracy/elite culture. Victoria took part in the conference 'Middle and Creative:

emerging Russian social groups in language and culture?’ with a paper entitled ‘‘I’m Ok and who are all that people?’ Practices of social representation of ‘Ok-class’ and its opponents in the Runet’. During her stay, Victoria intends to work out a new course program for Russian State University for the Humanities on courses about cultural industries as well as new media analysis.

November Events

We are very pleased to announce that in November the University of Edinburgh will be hosting the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain Alexander Yakovenko. The Ambassador accepted an invitation to give a Montague Burton Lecture in International Relations on Thursday the 28th November in the School of Law.

In November the Dashkova Centre continues its series of research seminars. In addition, the November programme will feature The Second Russian Film Festival.

Dashkova Research Seminar Dr Andy Byford, Durham University

Child Science in Late Imperial and Early Soviet Russia, 1881-1936

Date: Thursday, 7th November 2013, 5.10 pm

Venue: The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place



Dr Andy Byford is Senior Lecturer in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University. His research interests concern the social and cultural history of the Russian intelligentsia, professions, sciences and education as well as the Russian Diaspora in Great Britain. His current project investigates how children became objects of scientific study, professional expertise and public interest in modern societies with a focus on Russia.

Dr Andy Byford is the author of the monograph *‘Literary Scholarship in Late Imperial Russia: Rituals of Academic Institutionalization’* (2007).

Dashkova Research Seminar

by Dr Alexander Panchenko, Pushkin House, The Russian Academy of Sciences

Suggestions, burning, and the chair of wisdom: Symbolic universes of the New Age movements in post-Soviet Russia

Date: Thursday, 14th November 2013, 5.10 pm

Venue: The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place



Dr Alexander Panchenko is Leading Research Fellow in the Institute of Russian Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Pushkinskii Dom) and Professor of St Petersburg University. He is also a Prokhorov Visiting research fellow at the University of Sheffield.

Among his research interests are religious folklore and popular religions in Europe, literary theory, popular literature, contemporary folklore, the theories of folklore and popular culture, religious dissidents in Russia, new religious movements in Russia and Europe, and Jewish studies. Dr Alexander Panchenko is the author of several monographs including *'Peasant hagiology' and religious practice in Russia Modern Times* (2012), and a large number of scholarly articles.

Dashkova Research Seminar

by Prof Yuri Leving, Dalhousie University, Canada

The Eye-deology of Trauma: Killing Anna Karenina Softly

Date: Tuesday, 26th November 2013, 5.10 pm

Venue: The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place



Yuri Leving is a Professor in the Department of Russian Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University (Canada). His main field of interest is Russian literature, culture and film. Prof Leving has published over seventy scholarly articles on various aspects of Russian and comparative literature. He is the author

of several books, including *Train Station - Garage - Hangar. Vladimir Nabokov and the Poetics of Russian Urbanism* (2004) and *Keys to The Gift. A Guide to V. Nabokov's Novel* (2011). He is the founding editor of the *Nabokov Online Journal* (since 2007).

The Second Russian Film Festival in Scotland 8th November to 15th November 2013



The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre is pleased to announce The Second Russian Film Festival in Scotland organised in collaboration with Academia Rossica (Moscow) and CRCEES (Glasgow).

The Festival presents the work of award-winning directors, producers, actors and actresses to Scottish audience. The films will be screened at the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre at the University of Edinburgh.

This year the Festival will be screening three films. The films “Shame” and “Pipeline” are accompanied by discussions with film directors.



Friday 8th November (5.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.)

***Shame* (Стыд) by Yusup Razykov**

In a crumbling military base in the far north of Russia, a community of women patiently await the return of their husbands, serving aboard a submarine. Although bound together in this life of uncertainty and expectation, the women of this community lead very different lives, with the film's central character, Lena, living at an icy remove from the other wives. As Lena's own story of doubt and infidelity unfolds, so too do whispers of disaster begin to reach the surface.



Monday 11th November (7.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.)

***The Geographer Drank His Globe Away* (Географ глобус пропил) by Aleksandr Veledinsky**

Veledinsky's twistedly funny *The Geographer Drank His Globe Away* follows hapless biologist, Viktor Sluzhkin, as he tries his luck as a geography teacher in a provincial school. Armed with a best friend, an unhappy marriage and copious amounts of alcohol, Viktor struggles on in the face of an unruly class and maps that refuse to be read. And as if that wasn't enough, Viktor suddenly discovers love in the most unexpected of places...



Friday 15th November (5.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.)

***Pipeline* (Труба) by Vitaly Mansky**

Pipeline, the latest documentary from acclaimed director Vitaly Mansky, follows the course of the Trans-Siberian gas pipeline through Russia and into Europe. As the camera travels the length of the pipeline, the viewer is given access to the lives and landscapes of which the pipeline is a central part. While the pipeline may be a prominent symbol of Russia's resurgence, the lives captured in Pipeline show that for many, little has changed.

All films are shown in Russian with English subtitles. Tickets £5 (£4) are available online or at the door.

You can buy your tickets here:

http://www.epay.ed.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=69&catid=64&prodid=1307



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