



# THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



## September Events Review

### Linguistic Violence/Sayability



On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September the Dashkova team enjoyed an away-session at the international workshop “Making Things Sayable: Censorship, Violence, and Justice in Speech Practices (the USSR and present-day Russia)”, which took place on the cruise ship Cinderella cruising from Stockholm to Mariehamn and back. This was a very pleasant and surprisingly economically run event.



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10 October: Dr. Ilia Kalinin: Empire of Memory: Mnemonic Patriotism and ‘Post-Colonial Challenges’ in Contemporary Russia

17 October: Dr. Valery Timofeev: ‘Historical Memory and Local Self-Identity in Kaliningrad and Vyborg’

25-26 October: ‘Middle’ and ‘Creative’: Emerging Russian Social Groups in Language and Culture – conference

30 October: PIR+, ‘My Perestroika’

This is the second workshop on the 'Linguistic Violence/Sayability' project that was launched in November 2012 at the Dashkova Centre. This time it was co-organised in collaboration with Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies (UCRS), the Centre for Baltic and Eastern European Studies (CBEES) at Stockholm's Södertörn University, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures of Stockholm University. Participants included Irina Sandomirskaja (Södertörn), Per Arne Bodin (Stockholm), Susanna Witt (Uppsala), Lara Ryazanova-Clarke and Vera Zvereva (Dashkova Centre, Edinburgh), Dmitry Dubrovsky and Elena Markasova (St. Petersburg University) and Kirill Postoutenko (Queen Mary University



Dr. Lara Ryazanova-Clarke and Dr. Dmitry Dubrovsky

of London) contributed to the workshop. We are extremely grateful for the Centre for Baltic and Eastern European Studies (CBEES) at Södertörn University and Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Stockholm University for funding the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to produce a framework for a multidisciplinary international network to study new aspects in the relations between language and power in the USSR and Russia. The papers concentrated on a complex of problems, contexts, and situations that bear upon

linguistic expression in relation to administrative regulation, law, ethics, aesthetics, and politics. The ways of making things sayable (or unsayable), and the strategies of the linguistic subject in achieving (or disrupting) sayability have been analysed through the following: the context of censorial practices and agencies; linguistic violence; translatability, the "letter of the law" and the legal practices concerning matters of language and expression; and in a comparative and historical perspectives.

It is expected that the next workshop in the series, 'Linguistic Violence as the Edge of Words' will take place at Edinburgh in April within the framework of Division of European Languages and Cultures' 'The Edge of Words' project.

## Postgraduate News

We are delighted to report the excellent achievements of the Centre's postgraduate students:

On 13 September **Fraser Tew-Street** has passed successfully a viva for his PhD *Narrative of History and the Discursive Construction of National Identity in the Republic of Karelia*.

**Aldona Judina** has submitted her PhD entitled *Performing Russianness: Narratives and Everyday Conversations of the Russian-speaking Diaspora in Scotland*. The viva is scheduled for 8 November.

**Cathy Ratcliff** has received an AHRC postgraduate award for a PhD project *Seeing Africa: Linguistic Construction of Africa and International Development in the Post-Soviet Russian Media Discourse*.

Our warmest congratulations to Fraser, Aldona and Cathy!

## **Staff News**

Over the summer several changes occurred in the Dashkova Centre. Both our Project Assistants of 2012/13 have moved to other jobs: Dr Samantha Sherry has received a Leverhume Fellowship at Oxford and Dr Katia Popova has been appointed Language Assistant in the Russian Section at Edinburgh. We are sad to say goodbye to Sam and Katia and wish them all the very best in their academic careers. Aldona Judina has now taken the post of the Dashkova Project Assistant.

We are happy to announce that the **Dashkova fellows scheme** is now up and running and in autumn 2013, we will be 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 Kalinin will be the first recipient of the Calvert-Smolny Visiting Fellowship.

## **October Events**

After the summer break, the Dashkova Centre is back with a new series of research seminars which in October will focus on discussing Russian discourses of historical memory. In addition, the October programme will feature film screenings and an international conference.

**Dashkova Research Seminar**  
**Dr Ilya Kalinin, Saint-Petersburg State University**

**Empire of Memory: Mnemonic Patriotism and 'Post-Colonial Challenges' in Contemporary Russia**

**Date:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 5:10 p.m.

**Venue:** Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh University



Dr Ilya Kalinin is Associate Professor and Member of the Academic Committee, Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Saint Petersburg State University. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Neprikosnovennyi Zapas: Debaty o politike i kul'ture* (NZ: Debates on Politics and Culture). His research focuses on the issues of collective memory in the post-Soviet Russia.

**Dashkova Research Seminar  
Dr Valery Timofeev, Saint-Petersburg State University**

**Historical Memory and Local Self-Identity in Kaliningrad and Vyborg**

**Date:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 5:10 p.m.

**Venue:** Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Dr Valery 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 the special attention to the twentieth and twenty first century literary processes, Modernism and Post-Modernism.

**International Conference**

**'Middle' and 'Creative': Emerging Russian Social Groups in Language and Culture**  
(in partnership with the Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow).

**Date:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October

**Venue:** Princess Dashkova Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Since the turn of Millennium, Russia has experienced a period of deep social transformations. One of the key developments is the emergence of the educated urban social cluster engaged in entrepreneurship, knowledge technologies and the creative professions. Loosely defined labels such as 'creative class' and 'educated citizens' have been coined to refer to this group, along with the use of a more general notion of 'middle class'.

The Conference aims to facilitate an interdisciplinary investigation of the linguistic and cultural forms, codes and practices associated with the Russian 'creative'/'middle class'.

More details can be found at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/dashkova/research-resources/current-research>



### **Take One Action Film Festival**

**Film screening: Winter, Go Away! (Zima, ukhodi!)**

**Followed by discussion with Dr Luke March, The Dashkova Russian Centre at the University of Edinburgh and Mark Bevan, Director, Amnesty Scotland**

**Date:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 8.10 p.m.

**Venue:** Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road



Ten young Russian directors turn their cameras to the streets to capture the explosive political climate in the months leading up to Vladimir Putin's third re-election. The result is a witty and thought-provoking tapestry enriched with a menagerie of characters – from artists, politicians and middle-aged men drinking vodka at work, to overexcited journalists, nuns and young demonstrators – organising protests, joining rallies and voting.

**PIR+ (Politics and International Relations) Event**  
**Film screening: My Perestroika, a documentary by Robin Hessman**

**Followed by discussion with Dr Luke March, The Dashkova Russian Centre at the University of Edinburgh**

**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> of October, 3 p.m.

**Venue:** Teviot Lecture Theatre, G.152 (access via doorway 5 MED SCHOOL QUAD)



*My Perestroika* follows five ordinary Russians living in extraordinary times — from their sheltered Soviet childhood, to the collapse of the Soviet Union during their teenage years, to the constantly shifting political landscape of post-Soviet Russia. Together, these childhood classmates paint a complex picture of the dreams and disillusionment of those raised behind the Iron Curtain.

More information on: <http://myperestroika.com>



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