



THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



November Events Review

November was a busy month in the Dashkova Centre, our programme highlights featuring new instalments of the Dashkova research seminars, the hosting of three visiting research fellows and The Second Russian Film Festival in Scotland.

The Dashkova Research Seminars



Dr Andy Byford

On 7 November the Dashkova seminar speaker was Dr Andy Byford, Senior Lecturer in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University. The talk was entitled 'Child Science in Late Imperial and Early Soviet Russia, 1881-1936' and explored children as objects of scientific study, professional expertise and public interest.

CONTENTS

November Events Review

Thursday, 7th November
Dr Andy Byford (Durham), Child Science in Late Imperial and Early Soviet Russia, 1881-1936

The Second Russian Film Festival in Scotland

Friday 8th November
Film screening: Shame, followed by discussion with the film Director Iusup Razykov.

Monday 11th November
Film screening: The Geographer Drank His Globe Away (dir. Alexander Veleinskii)

Friday 15th November
Film screening: Pipeline, followed by discussion with the film Director Vitaly Mansky.

Thursday, 14th November
Dr Alexander Panchenko, Suggestions, Burning, and the Chair of Wisdom: Symbolic Universes of the New Age Movements in Post-Soviet Russia

Tuesday, 26th November
Prof Yuri Leving, The Eye-deology of Trauma: Killing Anna Karenina Softly

Thursday, 28th November
The Russian Ambassador gives a Montague Burton Lecture in International Relations

ASEEES Convention
Awards for members of the Dashkova academic Circle

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On 14 November we were delighted to host Dr Alexander Panchenko, a Leading Research Fellow in the Institute of Russian Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Pushkinskii Dom) and Professor at St Petersburg University. Dr Panchenko gave a talk 'Suggestions, burning, and the chair of wisdom: Symbolic universes of the New Age movements in post-Soviet Russia', in which he expanded on the search for the new spiritual values in contemporary Russia and provoked a lively discussion from various departments of the University, not least Divinity.

Dr Alexander Panchenko

The final seminar of the semester was given by Yuri Leving, Professor in Russian and Film Studies at Dalhousie University (Canada). His talk entitled 'The Eye-deology of Trauma: Killing Anna Karenina Softly' discussed various film interpretations of Anna Karenina's suicide in Tolstoy's great novel. We were especially happy to co-host this seminar with the Film Studies department and to have many postgraduate Film Studies students in the audience.



Prof Yuri Leving's research seminar

The Second Russian Film Festival in Scotland

From 8 to 15 November the Princess Dashkova Centre held The Second Russian Film Festival in Scotland. The Festival was organised in collaboration with Academia Rossica (London) and funded by CRCEES (Glasgow). We have brought three outstanding award-winning Russian films and two most significant contemporary film directors to meet with the Scottish audience. This year, all Festival events took place at the University of Edinburgh.



'Shame' (Стыд) by Yusup Razykov was screened on 8 November. This powerful film has won a number of prizes in 2013, including FIPRESCI Prize at 48th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Set in a decaying military base in the far north of Russia, the film presents a story of the main protagonist Lena, living at an icy remove from the other women of this small and closed community and dealing with her own personal trauma. After the film screening the director Yusup Razykov held a lively discussion and generously shared his views

Director Yusup Razykov

on the process of film creation, and about the Russian cinema today. Yusup has also kindly given interview for the Dashkova Centre web site.

The second Festival film 'The Geographer Drank His Globe Away' (Географ глобус пропил) (dir. Aleksandr Veledinsky) was also a tremendous success. The film adaptation of Alexei Ivanov's novel was awarded a Grand Prix at the Kinotavr festival, International Jury Best Film Award in Odessa Festival and many others. This comedy/drama follows unlucky biologist, Viktor Sluzhkin, as he tries his luck as a geography teacher in a provincial school. Unfortunately, because of the very busy work schedule Alexander Veledinsky could not attend the screening in Edinburgh, but the University cinema hall was full.



Veledinsky's film screening in the Dashkova Centre

The final event of the Festival was the evening with the acclaimed director Vitaly Mansky and the screening of his latest documentary 'Pipeline' (Труба). The film follows the course of the Trans-Siberian gas pipeline through Russia and into Europe. As the film crew travels the length of the pipeline, the viewer can observe the everyday life of ordinary people living in the towns and villages through which the pipeline goes. Among the questions, director Mansky talked about the hidden senses in his oeuvre as well the state of the Russian film industry and the future of documentary film. His interview will also appear on the Dashkova web site shortly.

University News

On 27th November the Edinburgh University Centre for Cultural Relations was launched with a lecture by Martin Davidson, Chief Executive of the British Council. This interdisciplinary Centre is the first of its kind in the world. It has been established to meet a global need to better understand the expanding range of exchanges between societies. Staff of the Dashkova Centre are excited about this development and look forward to the future collaboration with the new Centre for Cultural Relations.



Ambassador to Great Britain
Dr Alexander Yakovenko

The 28th of November the University of Edinburgh hosted the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain Dr Alexander Yakovenko. In the Old College the Ambassador gave a Montague Burton Lecture 'Russia's View of the World and Foreign Policy' and answered questions on the international relations.

Dean International (Europe) Prof Drew Scott introduced the guest and chaired the discussion. During the discussion Vice Principal International Prof Steve Hillier and the Ambassador Yakovenko marked out their perspectives on the further development of Russia and Britain's partnership in 2014 - the Year of Russian Culture in the UK - and highlighted the significance of the academic collaboration which is particularly important for our University.



Prof Steve Hillier, Prof Drew Scott
and Ambassador Yakovenko

The Dashkova Fellows Programme

The Dashkova Fellows Dr Valery Timofeev of St Petersburg University and Dr Viktoria Merzliakova of the Russian State University for Humanities (Moscow) have worked with us in November and have now completed their research visits. We have enjoyed their company very much and hope their stay in the Centre has helped them in their exciting research projects.

Postgraduate News

Our congratulations to Aldona Judina who has recently passed a viva for her PhD 'Performing Russianness: Narratives and Everyday Conversations of the Russian-speaking Diaspora in Scotland'.

ASEEES Annual Convention, Boston



On 21-24 November two members of the Dashkova Centre – Lara Ryazanova-Clarke and Zera Zvereva -- participated in the 45th ASEEES Annual Convention in Boston. Lara Ryazanova-Clarke organised a panel entitled ‘Language and Violence’ in which the theme, co-developed with our Swedish colleagues, was presented for a wide global discussion. Lara read a paper ‘Interpretation of Linguistic Violence in Today’s Russia’. Irina Sandomirskaja (Södertörn University) contributed to the panel with the paper ‘Language,

Dissidence, Dissent: Circumlocution as a Sensibility of Resistance’. The third paper, on ‘Soviet Censorship and the Response to Linguistic Violence’ was presented by the PhD graduate of the Dashkova Centre, currently a Fellow at Oxford University, Samantha Sherry.

Vera Zvereva participated in the Round Table ‘The Impact of the Internet and New Media Technologies on Russian Politics and Civil Society’, which brought together specialists from a variety of spheres—sociology, political science, cultural studies, and new media studies—to explore both the real and potential impacts of new media technologies on Russian politics and civil society today.

Awards for members of the Dashkova Academic Circle



Professor Elena
Gapova

We are delighted to announce that this month two participants of the Dashkova Academic Circle have been recipients of prestigious awards. Elena Gapova, Director of European Humanities University Centre for Gender Studies and Associate Professor at Western Michigan University has been awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in Slavic and Eastern European Gender Studies.



Professor Irina
Sandomirskaja

On 29 November Professor Irina Sandomirskaja of Södertörn University, Stockholm, became the winner of this year’s Andrei Bely prize for her book ‘Blokada v slove’ (The Siege in the Word), Moscow: NLO, 2013. We are very happy and proud to have academic links with both Elena and Irina and congratulate them both on their much deserved awards.

Season's Greetings



The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre would like to **wish** all our members and friends a very merry **Christmas** and the best for the New Year!



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