



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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Russia's cultural links with UK are focus of research forum

International experts are gathering in Edinburgh this week to discuss changing cultural ties between Russia and Britain.

The conference at the University of Edinburgh's Princess Dashkova Centre – from 11 to 13 December – will explore a range of subjects including literature, television and tourism.

Professor Stephen Hutchings, of the University of Manchester, will deliver the keynote speech on social and cultural stereotyping in British and Russian television comedies.

Other speakers include Sergey Davydov, of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, who will discuss perceptions of the BBC in Russia since 2000; Vlad Strukov, of the University of Leeds, who will talk about the representation of Russians in the British media; and Victoria Merzlyakova, of the Russian State University of the Humanities in Moscow, who will focus on Russian perspectives of culture and tourism in Scotland.

Also taking part is Oxana Morgunova, of the International Migration and Gender Studies Institute in Brussels, who will offer insights into the social networks of female Russian-speaking Muslims in the UK.

Round table sessions will feature Dr James Rann, Head of Education at Calvert 22 – a foundation that seeks to encourage links between Russia and the wider world – who will speak about how online media has altered Russian perceptions of the UK. The participants will discuss ways of sharing cultural knowledge through theatrical performances, art exhibitions, literature and journalism.

The Russian chamber choir Russkaya Capella will perform traditional songs in the University's Reid Concert Hall to mark the opening of the event on Thursday evening.

An exhibition will highlight the part played by Professor Karen Forbes, of Edinburgh College of Art, in the design of the Evolution Tower in Moscow. The building's pioneering design makes it one of Russia's most eye-catching skyscrapers.

Vera Zvereva, Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Princess Dashkova Centre, said: "We are delighted to welcome so many leading thinkers on cross-cultural communication between Russia and the UK to Edinburgh. As well as exploring how international exchanges have developed, we hope to look to the future and offer insights into how the two countries might develop stronger cultural understanding."

Giving Voice to Cultures: Practices of Russia-Britain Cross-Cultural Communication in the 21st Century takes place from 11-13 December. Full details can be found on the Princess Dashkova Centre's programme: [Event Programme](#)

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