



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

**THE PRINCESS  
DASHKOVA RUSSIAN  
CENTRE  
MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER**



**April Events**



Dr Lilia Shevtsova

**CONTENTS**

**April Events Review**

**2013 Erickson Lecture**

**Durham Russkii Mir Centre  
Opening**

**Honorary Degree Awarded  
to Professor Sir Timothy  
O'Shea**

**Research Visit to the  
Dashkova Centre**

## The 2013 Erickson Lecture

The Princess Dashkova Centre, the Europa Institute and the Politics and International relations Transatlantic Seminar Series were delighted to welcome Dr Lilia Shevtsova to give the annual Erickson lecture on 24<sup>th</sup> April. The annual Erickson Lecture was established to mark the seminal contributions to military history and analysis made by John Erickson (1929-2002) while Professor of Defence Studies at the University of Edinburgh. It acts as a platform for prominent analysts and politicians to discuss relations between Russia and the wider world. Dr Shevtsova, who, among other roles, chairs the Russian Domestic Politics and Political Institutions Program at the Carnegie Moscow Center, gave spoke to a packed audience in the Playfair Library, Old College. Her lecture, entitled 'Russia XXI: Challenge for the West' examined the state of democracy and the integration with the West in contemporary Russia. Calling Russian an 'analytical trap' that has 'ruined so many experts reputations', Dr Shevtsova addressed the uncertainty of the political situation in Russia today, and posed questions about the country's future path and its relationship with the West. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session, during which members of the audience were invited to contribute.

Prior to the lecture, students from the University took part in a special session with Dr Shevtsova in the Dashkova Centre, where they were able to discuss the themes of the lecture and ask more detailed questions.

## Opening of the new Russkii Mir Centre at Durham University



On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Durham University became the fourth institution in the UK to open a Russkii Mir Centre. The Centre is named after the prominent Russian humanist, historian, literary scholar and philosopher Sergei Averintsev (1937-2004). The opening was attended by the Russkii Mir Executive Director Pyotr Skorospelov and the Director of European Programmes, Alexey Gromyko. The Minister Counsellor of the Russian

Embassy, Alexander Kramarenko spoke about the importance of culture for bringing people together in the post-Cold War era. Marianna Taimanova, Teaching Fellow at Durham spoke about the creation of the new Centre. The Dashkova Centre Manager, Dr Vera Zvereva travelled to Durham to attend the opening ceremony. There, Dr Zvereva was able to meet with colleagues and researchers who will take part in the programme of events, and we look forward to creating opportunities for further networking.

### Honorary Degree Awarded to the Principal

Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, Principal and Vice Chancellor, the University of Edinburgh will be travelling to St Petersburg to receive on 16 May an Honorary degree *Doctors Honoris Causa* from St Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences. The award will take place in the presence of the Ambassador of Russia in the UK Alexander Yakovenko, members of the Russian Duma and Heads of institutes of Russian Academy of Sciences, and other illustrious guests. Among those previously awarded Honorary degree from St Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences are HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the Nobel Prize winner physicist Zhores Alferov, the legendary cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich. The grand ceremony of Honorary degree awards will take place during an International Dmitry Likhachev conference *Dialogue of Cultures: values, contexts, communications*, at which Professor O’Shea will also present a paper. Dmitry Sergeevich Likhachev (1906-1999) was an outstanding Soviet and Russian scholar in the history of Russian literary and culture. In 1972, Dmitry Likhachev was awarded an Honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh.

### A Research Visitor to the Dashkova Centre

The Centre was recently visited by Kira Godovanyuk, a PhD student of the Institute of Europe at the Russian Academy of Sciences. Kira is supervised by Alexei Gromyko, the Director of Russkii Mir’s European Programs and her dissertation is entitled “The Place of Russia in the External Political doctrine and practice of Great Britain (1991 to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)”. She met with Dr Zvereva to discuss the Centre’s mission and its activity. We look forward to reading the results of Kira’s research.

### Russian Politics from Below Conference

On 26<sup>th</sup> April, The Dashkova Centre hosted a conference entitled **Russian politics from below: Российская политика снизу-вверх**. Funded by The Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES), the conference was a cooperation between the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and was organised by Dr Luke March, Deputy Director of the Dashkova Centre and Dr Ammon Cheskin, Lecturer at Glasgow. Speakers from Scotland and further



afield discussed issues of civic engagement, ethnic politics and protest with papers including Anna Tarasenko's (National Research University Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg) discussion of social policy management and civil society and Francesca Stella's (University of Glasgow) investigation of the politicisation of sexuality in Russia.



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