



# THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

**We wish you a Happy New 2014 Year, the  
Year of the Russian Culture in the UK!**

## January Events

In January, the Dashkova Centre is proud to join Politics and International Relations (PIR) at the University of Edinburgh in presenting two transatlantic seminars:

**Transatlantic Seminar: PIR in collaboration with the  
Princess Dashkova Centre  
Dr Sarah Whitmore, Oxford Brookes**

**'Ukraine is not dead yet': Explaining the #Euromaidan  
Uprising**

**Date:** Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1:00-2:30pm

**Venue:** Seminar Room 2, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a  
George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD

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Alexander Verkhovsky

A visit of Mikhail Shishkin  
(date to be announced)

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Dashkova Centre!**



Sarah Whitmore is Senior Lecturer in Politics at Oxford Brookes University. She is also an Honorary Fellow of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham.

Her research focuses upon post-Soviet politics and she is interested in the evolution of formal institutions, their significance in structuring and reproducing power in post-Soviet states, their relationship with informal practices and the implications this has for the political system. Her empirical focus is predominantly on Ukraine and Russia. Her current research project is investigating the meaning and significance of disruptive practices in Ukraine's parliament. She has given briefings to the FCO and the US Department of State on Ukrainian politics as well as giving regular media interviews.

### **Transatlantic Seminar: PIR in collaboration with the Princess Dashkova Centre Dr Samuel Greene, Kings College London**

#### **Russia's Political Opposition**

**Date:** Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1:00-2:30pm

**Venue:** Seminar Room 2, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a George Square, EH8 9LD

Dr Sam Greene, director of the Russia Institute, is an expert in Russian politics and social movements, and the link between Russian domestic and foreign policy.

He has written extensively for policy documents and academic publications and is a frequent commentator in Russian and international media. His areas of research interest currently focus on understanding the shifting relationship between society and state in modern Russia, the causes and implications of the recent re-emergence of contested politics in Russia, and the social, political and economic effects of new media.



#### **Postgraduate News**

It gives us great pleasure to welcome Giorgia Cima, a Postgraduate ERASMUS Trainee from The University of Milan, onto our team at the Dashkova Centre. Ms Cima will be with us for 3 months.

## February Events

We are delighted to announce that the Honorary Dashkova Lecture will be presented by Dr Alexander Verkhovsky, Director of the SOVA Centre for Information and Analysis, Moscow.

**Date:** Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 5:15-7:00pm

**Venue:** Faculty Room North (G.01), David Hume Tower, George Sq. EH8 9LX



Born in 1962, Alexander Verkhovsky graduated from the Moscow Oil and Gas Institute with a degree in applied mathematics in 1984. He continued to work in this field as a software engineer throughout the 1980s but at the same time he began to participate in the dissemination of Samizdat publications. In 1988 he became a member of the democratic organization, "Civil Dignity," and later Editor-in-Chief of the independent Samizdat newspaper "Panorama", in Moscow. In the early 90s, he was appointed Vice President of the Panorama Information and Research Centre and since 2002, he has led the SOVA Centre for Information and Analysis in Moscow.

Verkhovsky's is a leading expert in political extremism, nationalism and xenophobia in contemporary Russia, religion and politics in contemporary Russia, and the relationship between the Russian state and religious organizations. He is a prolific author of books and articles on these topics, the most recent being *Xenophobia, Freedom of Conscience and Anti-Extremism in Russia in 2008* (2009).

Another exciting event anticipated in February is a visit from prizewinning writer **Mikhail Shishkin** (date to be announced).

Mikhail Shishkin is one of the most prominent writers in contemporary Russian literature, and the only writer to have received all three of Russia's most prestigious literary awards: the Russian Booker Prize (2000), the National Bestseller Prize (2006), and the Big Book Prize (2006, 2011).



Shishkin's literary debut came with the 1993 publication of the short story "Calligraphy Lesson" in the Russian literary monthly "Znamia"; the journal published his first novel, *One*

*Night Befalls Us All* later that year. Shishkin's novel *The Taking of Ishmael* was serialised in two issues of "Znamia" in 1999, and went on to win the Russian Booker Prize in 2000. Shishkin has continued to rack up awards, winning the National Bestseller in 2005 for *Maidenhair* and the 2011 Big Book Award for *Letter-Book*, which won the Big Book's top jury and reader awards.

His novels - all of which have been adapted for stage production in Russia—have been translated into 28 languages. Last year saw the publication of the first English-language translation of a Shishkin novel, *Maidenhair*, in the US.

In February we also plan to renew our Postgrad seminars. Details will be announced later.



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