



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

THE PRINCESS DASHKOVA RUSSIAN CENTRE

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER



The Princess Dashkova Centre is pleased to wish all its friends a Happy New Year! Our 2013 programme looks to be as stimulating and varied as 2012.

December and January Events Review

On 13 December, the Dashkova Centre hosted a visit to the University by Professor Andrei Melville of the Higher



Prof. Andrei Melville

School of Economics, Moscow. At the meeting attended by senior members of the College, closer ties between our universities were discussed. Professor Melville gave the Centre's last lecture for 2012, entitled 'Russian Politics Today: Stagnation and Awakening', in which he discussed

the impact of the 2011 elections and associated protests on Vladimir Putin's presidency one year on.

We started 2013 with a major research symposium

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December and January Events Review

1st February – Natasha Kuhrt: 'Russia, China and the Geopolitics in the Far East' - Transatlantic Series Seminar

7th February – Alexander Etkind: 'Russia's Internal Colonization: Where History and Literature Converge'

21st February – Evgeny Dobrenko: 'The Limits of Humanity and Violence in Soviet Wartime Culture' - Honorary Dashkova Lecture

22nd February - Valentina Feklyunina: Russia's Foreign Policy Towards the West. Transatlantic Series Seminar.

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entitled 'Global Russian'. Attended by scholars from the UK, Russia, Finland and the USA, the two-day symposium assessed the impact of globalization in sociolinguistic terms and assessed theoretical avenues for discussion of Russian as a global language. The workshop was funded by the AHRC grant via the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies, a language based area studies centre of



The conference attendees in Old College

excellence. As well as a keynote speech by Vladimir Alpatov of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the audience welcomed papers on Russian as soft power (Victoria Hudson), geopolitics of Russian (Robert Saunders), Russian in tourism (Ekaterina Protassova), in the media (Vlad Strukov; Lara Ryazanova-Clarke and Vera Zvereva), and among migrants in Scotland (Aldona Judina), in Latvia (Ammon Cheskin), and Moldova (Matthew Ciscel). Podcasts of the papers will soon be available at the Dashkova Centre website.

Postgraduate activity

On 30 January, a viva is scheduled for Varvara Christie's PhD on the topic: *Styling identities in the post-Soviet cinema: the use of slang, argo and obscenities in contemporary Russian films*. We wish Varia a very successful outcome of her viva.

February Events

**Dashkova Centre - Transatlantic Series Joint Seminar
Natasha Kuhrt, King's College London**

Russia, China and the Geopolitics in the Far East

Date: Friday 1st February, 1pm

Venue: Seminar Room 1, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15A George Square

Dr Natasha Kuhrt is Lecturer in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. Her research interests include Russian and post-Soviet foreign and security policies, international relations, nationalism and dimensions of Russian Great-Powerness. She is the co-convenor of the British International Studies Association working group on Russian and Eurasian Security.

**Dashkova research seminar (jointly with Russian research seminar)
Alexander Etkind, University of Cambridge**

Russia's Internal Colonization: Where History and Literature Converge

Date: 7th February, 5.15pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

Based on a recently published book, this lecture will trace how the Russian Empire conquered foreign territories and domesticated its own heartlands, thereby colonizing many peoples, Russians included. This vision of colonization as simultaneously internal and external, colonizing one's own people as well as others, is crucial for scholars of empire, colonialism and globalization. Transcending the boundaries between history and literature, Etkind will focus this lecture on Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, which in the mid-19th century was staffed by first-class authors of fiction and non-fiction.

Alexander Etkind is Professor of Russian Literature and Cultural History of the University of Cambridge at King's College. His most recent book is *Internal Colonization: Russia's Imperial Experience* (Cambridge: Polity, 2011). His *Warped Mourning: Stories of the Undead in the Land of the Unburied*, will be published by Stanford University Press in March 2013.

If you wish to attend a dinner after the talk, email Dashkova.centre@ed.ac.uk by Monday 4th February.

The 2013 Honorary Dashkova Lecture

Evgeny Dobrenko, University of Sheffield

The Art of Hatred: The Limits of Humanity and Violence in Soviet Wartime Culture

Date: 21st February, 5.15pm

Venue: Princess Dashkova Russian Centre, 14 Buccleuch Place

One of the most striking features of Soviet culture during WWII (and especially of the first phase of it) was a clear departure from ideological and visual sterility of pre-war culture in which any depiction of violence, suffering, death or victimization was practically tabooed. The disastrous beginning of the war for the Soviet Union and German atrocities brought about major changes to Soviet ideology. The focus of this lecture will be the retuning of Soviet art according to this new ideological doctrine. This "translation" of ideology into literature (first of all, poetry and journalism) and music was followed by visual arts such as poster, painting and film, completely changing their narrative, style and tune.

Professor Evgeny Dobrenko is Head of Russian and Slavonic Studies at the University of Sheffield and has worked in Odessa, Moscow, Stanford and Nottingham. He has been awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship and was awarded the 2012 Efim Etkin prize with Professor Galin Tihanov for their book *A History of Russian Literary Theory and Criticism: The Soviet Age and Beyond*. His research interests are Soviet and post-Soviet literature and culture, Socialist realism, film, critical theory and Soviet

cultural history. He has authored or edited twenty books and more than 250 scholarly articles and essays.

If you wish to attend a dinner after the lecture, email <mailto:Dashkova.centre@ed.ac.uk> by 18th February.

Dashkova Centre - Transatlantic Series Joint Seminar

Valentina Feklyunina, Newcastle University

Russia's Foreign Policy Towards the West

Date: 22nd February, 1pm

Venue: Seminar Room 1, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a George Square



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