WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE!

This special conference issue contains the programme of the 15th Annual Aleksanteri Conference: Culture and Russian Society on pages 5-11. Keynote speakers and pre-conference roundtable participants are introduced on pages 12-13.

Last minute changes to the programme are updated on the conference website at www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/conference2015 and at the registration desk (Helsinki University, Main building, 4th floor).

Please don’t hesitate to turn to the registration desk, should you need any further assistance.

SUSTAINABLE EARTH SYSTEM MANIFESTO LAUNCHED

The multi-disciplinary initiative Grand Challenges & Northern Societies joins two leading fields at the University of Helsinki - Russian Studies and Atmospheric sciences - to offer groundbreaking research investigating climate change, Russia, and the links among environmental and societal change. The Grand Challenges & Northern Societies Initiative was introduced in August by launching a Sustainable Earth System manifesto.

Read more on page 4
The history of philosophy in Russia might not sound like the most contemporary research area, but in fact it lays the foundations for the whole of the ideology in which Russia is immersed today, explains Vesa Oittinen, professor of Russian philosophy and history of ideas at the Aleksanteri Institute. “Many thought processes that we witness today have their roots in the philosophical discussions of the 18th century onwards, as Russian thinkers have appropriated western ideas to make them more relevant to their own culture,” argues professor Oittinen. One example is the reception of Immanuel Kant’s philosophy, a research theme which Oittinen has been tackling for some time. “Several problems inherent in modernisation processes in Russia are actually also manifested in the reception of Kant’s philosophy,” says Oittinen. “For instance, representatives of religious idealism rejected his ideas as too individualistic and rational, which might seem surprising from the perspective of the western view of Kant.”

In addition to Kant in Russia, Oittinen has recently been working with the history of Soviet philosophy. Here, the period between the 1960s and 1980s seems particularly interesting, especially the Activity Approach, which has plenty of ties with the Soviet school of cultural-historical psychology (Lev Vygotsky, Vasily Leontyev) but has thus far been relatively unknown in the West. This philosophical current focused on the explanatory role of the concept of activity, not only in social philosophy, but even in theory of cognition.

Oittinen has also been examining the position of Russian philosophy in the globalised world. “Many Russians claim that their philosophical tradition is something entirely unique and inherent only to Russia. It is indeed true that Russian philosophical thought has its own, significant culture, whose position is now changing, as it comes into dialogue with globalisation,” Oittinen says. “This process is far from straightforward. On the one hand, it is a positive phenomenon that Russian philosophical thought is now entering into a fully fledged dialogue with the rest of the world, but on the other hand, this development also has traits that some people quite correctly characterise as a ‘McDonaldisation’ of philosophy. The hegemony of Anglo-American culture is evident even there.”

The same juxtapositions also appear in research on Russian philosophy, says Oittinen. “There are two approaches: one examines the inherent traits of Russian and Soviet philosophy as also having a bearing on the wider western context. The other scrutinises Russian philosophy as its own culture, as a certain integral whole, whose traditions and central questions differ from other cultures.” The latter approach can also be experienced in the panels which Oittinen has coordinated at this year’s Aleksanteri Conference. One is devoted to Nikolai Bukharin, another discusses Marx and Russia, and the third deals with the Russian philosophical culture. “The papers and comments will be extremely interesting”, Oittinen says, looking forward to a fruitful discussion among the most prominent researchers in the field.
Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Aleksanteri Institute, I am pleased to welcome you to the 15th annual Aleksanteri Conference. In the past, the Conference has focused on social and political sciences. This year’s event, however, is the first Aleksanteri Conference with a focus on culture. I am proud to present you an exciting program, which reflects the diversity of scholarly approaches to the topic, while it also stresses the importance of cultural analysis for societal and political processes. I would like to thank all participants for making this program possible.

The conference is co-organized with the Academy of Finland Center of Excellence “Choices of Russian Modernization”. In modern Russian history, cultural and educational modernization has been as imperative as economic and technological advancement. Throughout the history of the Soviet Union, cultural and intellectual production was an integral part of etatist programs, while it was also the key to the ideological structuring of the society.

Tackling this Soviet legacy in the age of post-industrial globalization, digital media, and cultural pluralism has set up a number of challenges, as well as opportunities, for the production, consumption, and administration of culture in Russia. The role of cultural practices, policies, and institutions has emerged as a crucial political question in early 21st-century Russia.

The 2015 Aleksanteri Conference offers a platform for scholarly exchange and future research collaboration on questions concerning Russia’s new cultural policies, intellectual production, identity politics, civilizational discourse and geopolitical debate, philosophical cultures and religious communities, linguistic and educational challenges, and, in general, the wealth of Russia’s cultural legacies.

Again, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Helsinki in “the Baltic marshland by zinc-gray breakers,” rephrasing Joseph Brodsky, a neighboring city’s poet. On behalf of the organizing committee, I wish you all an intellectually stimulating and academically productive stay at the 2015 Aleksanteri Conference. Добро пожаловать! Tervetuloa!

Sanna Turoma
Chair of the Organizing Committee
Adjunct Professor
Academy of Finland Fellow

ALEKSANTERI CONFERENCE 2016: LIFE AND DEATH IN RUSSIA

The 2016 Aleksanteri Conference with the theme “Life and Death in Russia” will be held in Helsinki on October 26 to 28. The conference invites scholars in all fields in social and political sciences and humanities to discuss current issues in Russia’s welfare policy formation. We will examine the various problems that have emerged since the country’s transition from a socialist system to a market economy. How is Russia tackling increases in poverty, inequality and mortality?

The 2016 Conference is organised in cooperation with the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies Choices of Russian Modernisation, and its cluster “Welfare Regime”.

The call for papers will be published in February 2016 – keep an eye on Aleksanteri website www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri
NEW PROJECTS STARTING AT THE ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE

The Helsingin Sanomat Foundation has awarded Professor Markku Kangaspuro and his research team funding for the Media Lab project. It will analyze and strengthen the development of the freedom of expression in Russia. In particular, the project examines the execution of state control mechanisms, censorship, and the remaining free spaces of independent reporting. It will deepen the Russia-expertise of Finnish journalists through facilitating interaction between Finnish media, researchers, and students. The Media Lab project (2016-2018) is a part of RussiaHUB Helsinki activities (www.helsinki.fi/russiahub).

**Russia’s new hybrid warfare** has become a central safety concern for the entire Europe. In Aleksanteri Institute, a new research project by Hanna Smith and Bettina Renz, funded by the Finnish government, strives to tackle the challenges and threats this new situation poses. It will produce new information on Russia’s strategic thinking.

**SUSTAINABLE EARTH SYSTEM MANIFESTO LAUNCHED**

The multi-disciplinary, high visibility initiative Grand Challenges & Northern Societies joins two leading fields at the University of Helsinki – Russian Studies and Atmospheric sciences. It will produce ground breaking research investigating climate change, Russia, and the links among environmental and societal change. The Grand Challenges & Northern Societies Initiative was introduced in August by launching a Sustainable Earth System manifesto. The manifesto addresses three strategic tasks. First, constructing a novel infrastructure to monitor and to make reliable predictions about the behaviour of critical environment parameters worldwide. Secondly, finding a political consensus to overcome various geopolitical interests, so that the necessary research, mitigation and adaptation actions can occur without delay, ensuring sustainable living conditions in different parts of the world. Thirdly, providing the operating prerequisites for technology development and particularly energy and material flows to moderate on-going climate change and finding practical solutions for the Grand Challenges.

Grand Challenges and Northern Societies Initiative members are Aleksanteri Institute (University of Helsinki), Division of Atmospheric Sciences (University of Helsinki), two Centres of Excellence funded by the Academy of Finland (The Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies – Choices of Russian Modernisation), Pan-Eurasian Experiment (PEEX) Program and RussiaHUB Helsinki Consortium. See the manifesto: http://www.helsinki.fi/russiahub/manifesti_peex_ru_hub2.pdf

NEW JEAN MONNET MODULE

Katalin Miklóssy

The Eastern European Researchers’ team received EU funds for a new Jean Monnet Module, The East within Europe: An Eastern Angle to European Studies, led by senior researcher Dr. Katalin Miklóssy. The competition was fierce – the Aleksanteri Institute’s group was the only Finnish team acknowledged out of over 600 applications. The module challenges the grand narrative of the EU about a successful Eastern enlargement with a democratising effect on the post-communist sphere.

The module is structured round three interlinked themes: 1) The revisited history of the EU enlargement; 2) A critical review of the divergent development in the Eastern group of the EU; 3) A discussion of Eastern neighbourhood strategies.

The module will run until August 2018 and will use the latest innovations in Finnish pedagogy.

In addition to intensive courses and MOOCS, the team will publish three textbooks based on new research and engage in various popularising activities.

This new international study programme will be integrated into four Master’s Programmes: the London-based consortium International Masters in Economy, State and Society, and the international Master’s in European Studies, the ECEBB and the national programme of Russian and East European Studies. In addition, the module is included in the study programme of Social Science History in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

RUSSIAN HYBRID WARFARE: DEFINITIONS, CAPABILITIES, SCOPE AND POSSIBLE RESPONSES

Seminar on Friday 6 November 2015 at 9-12

Speakers: Tor Bukkvoll, Antulio J. Echevarria II, Keir Giles, Bettina Renz, Hanna Smith, Rod Thornton

More information available soon on the Aleksanteri Institute website!

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

POWER OF THOUGHT

1640–2015
15th Annual Aleksanteri Conference

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER

10:00-13:30 Registration

10:00-12:00 Pre-Conference Round Table (Small Hall, Main Building, 4th floor)
CHAIRS: Tomi Huttunen, Professor, Department of Modern Languages, University of Helsinki and Maria Pettersson, journalist at Helsingin Sanomat
PARTICIPANTS:
Kalle Kiinivilä, journalist and writer (Malmö)
Irina Prokhorova, publisher (New Literary Review publishing house, Moscow)
Roman Senchin, writer (Moscow)
Artemy Troitsky, journalist and writer (Tallinn)

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:45 Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session I (Small Hall, Main Building)
CHAIR: Dr. Sanna Turoma, Chair of the Organising Committee, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki
OPENING REMARKS: Paula Lehtomäki, State Secretary to the Prime Minister of Finland
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
Catriona Kelly, Professor of Russian, University of Oxford, UK: Russia and Europe, 1991-2014: La grande désillusion

VERA TOlz, Sir William Mather Professor of Russian Studies, University of Manchester, UK: Projecting the Nation: Media Events and Changing Narratives of Nationhood in Putin’s Russia

15:45-16:15 Coffee (Small Hall Lobby)

16:15-17:45 PANELS 1A-1J

1A: Russian Orthodox Christians as Cultural Entrepreneurs (Auditorium II)
CHAIR: Kaarina Aitamurto (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Jussi Lassila (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Sonja Luehrmann (Simon Fraser University, Canada): An Orthodox Proposal Economy: Grants, Diocesan Commissions, and Festivals in Defense of the Family
Jeanne Kormina (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Orthodox Expos as Trade Shows and Festivals of Russian Culture
Sergey Shtrykov (European University, Russia): The Visualization of the Nation’s Christian Soul: Documentaries about Ossetian Ethnic Culture as a Tool of Inculturation

1B: Gender, Discrimination, and Cultural Interaction (Auditorium III)
CHAIR: Aino Saarinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Cal Weaver (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Elena Bratishenko (University of Calgary, Canada): The Pitfalls of Learning a Foreign Culture
Alisa Zhabenko (University of Helsinki, Finland): Leaving Russia: Russian Queer Asylum Seekers in EU

1C: Russian Language Today (Auditorium IV)
CHAIR: Ekaterina Protassova (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Arto Mustajoki (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Oxana Issers (Omsk State University, Russia): 2014 год в интерпретации российских рейтингов “Слово года”
Varvara Chumakova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): The Patterns of Oral Culture in Russia: The Construction of Social Structure
Tatiana Krihtova (University of Eastern Finland): Language Situation in Christian Churches of Joensuu in a Context of a Migrants Choice

1D: Media and Conflict (Hall 13)
CHAIR: Julka Pietiläinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Mervi Pannti (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Natalia Avdonina (Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Russia): Mediation of the War in Afghanistan: From Charging to Justifying
Liudmila Voronova (Gävle University, Sweden): Ultimate Gendering of the Image of Russia: Political Journalism in the Times of Conflict in Ukraine
Irina Khadzava (University of Helsinki, Finland): Russian TV vs Russian TV: How Two Russian TV Channels Visually Frame the Ukrainian Conflict for Internal and External Audiences
Emil Edenborg (Lund University, Sweden): The Secret Funerals in Pskov: Patriotism, Military Masculinity and Politics of (In)visibility in Russian Media Reporting on Soldiers Who Die in Ukraine

1E: Civil Society and Social Politics (Auditorium XI)
CHAIR: Jouko Nikula (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Elena Bogdanova (CISR, Russia / University of Eastern Finland)
Artur Holavin (European University, Russia): Care in Cultural Capital: NGOs, the Elderly and Art as a Need
Julia Zelikova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Successful Aging in Contemporary Russia
Daria Goryacheva & Anna Sanina (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Value Orientation of Women Administrators in Russia
Leo Granberg (University of Helsinki, Finland) & Ann-Mari Sätre (Uppsala University, Sweden): Governments Meet Civil Society? Local Initiatives in Russia

1F: Russian Exceptionalism, Missionism, and Civilizationism (Auditorium XIII)
CHAIR: Natalia Baschmakoff (University of Eastern Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Jutta Scherrer (EHESS, France)
Brendan Humphreys (University of Helsinki, Finland): Locating Russian Exceptionalism: a Comparative Perspective
Alieja Curanovic (University of Warsaw, Poland): When Simple Tasks are not Enough: Mission in Contemporary Russia’s Politics
Fabian Linde (Uppsala University, Sweden): The Russian Civilizational Turn as a Challenge to Liberalism

1G: Narratives and Origins of Contemporary Russian Patriotism (Auditorium XIV)
CHAIR: Jeremy Smith (University of Eastern Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Catriona Kelly (University of Oxford, UK)
Victoria Smolkin-Rothbrock (Wesleyan University, USA): The Second Baptism of Rus?: The Spiritual Foundations of New Russian Patriotism
Nikolay Mitrokhin (University of Bremen, Germany): Anti-Western Civil Society in Russia and the Origins of the War in the Donbas
Alexander Titov (Queen’s University Belfast, UK): Patriotism or Realism?: Untying Ideological Knots of Russia’s Policy in Ukraine

1H: Law and Human Rights: Practices and Challenges (Hall 14)
CHAIR: Anna-Liisa Heusala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Freek van der Vet (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Ekaterina Glukhova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Practices of Experts’ Participation in Decision-Making Processes within Commissioner for Human Rights Activists
Elena Yushkova (Independent scholar): Dying Swan Fights for Human Rights
Anton Kazun (Higher School of Economics,
Russia): Social Responsibility of Russian Lawyers: Factors of the Engagement into “Pro Bono” Work
Anton Kazun & Andrei Yakovlev (Higher School of Economics, Russia): The Quality of Law Enforcement System in Russian Regions: an Assessment of Attorneys

11: Managing Creativity in Contemporary Russia (Hall 15)  
CHAIR: Arja Rosenholm (University of Tampere, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Yana Krupets (Higher School of Economics, Russia)  
Saara Ratilaainen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Youth Amateur TV and Online Viewership in Russia  
Olga Gurova (University of Helsinki, Finland): Professional Identities of Young Clothing Designers in Russia and Finland  
Margarita Kuleva (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Labor Routines of Young Cultural Managers at the “New” and the “Old” Russian Cultural Institutions

1J: Roundtable: Communicative Aggression - the Cultural Platform and Political Choice (Hall 21)  
CHAIR: Viktor Sidorov (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia)  
Kamilla Nigmatullina (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Methodology of Studying Communicative Aggression / Методология изучения коммуникативных агрессий  
Josef M. Dzyaloshinsky (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Media Strategies of Hostility: Linguistic and Figureative Means / Медиатические стратегии вражды: языковые и образные средства

Ruzanna Ivanian (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Stigmatization as a Result and a Tool of Communicative Aggression / Стigmatизация как результат и инструмент коммуникативной агрессии  
Sergey V. Kurushkin (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Communication Aggression in Sacred and Profane Russian Media Discourse: the Trigger Analysis / Коммуникативные агрессии в священном и profанном медиадискурсе России: триггер-анализ  
Viktor Hrul (Moscow State University, Russia): Hate Speech in the Mediatization of Religion: Axiological and Teleological Perspectives / Язык в медиатизации религии: ценностные и телеологические аспекты

18.00-20.00 Reception hosted by the University of Helsinki (Teachers’ Reading Room, Main Building, Unioninkatu 34)

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER
9:00-10:30 PANELS 2A-2J  
2A: Russian Culture in the Central Asia: the Own or the Alien? (Auditorium II)  
CHAIR: Ekaterina Protassova (University of Helsinki, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Damina Shaibakova (Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan)  
Noora Khudoikulova (University of Helsinki, Finland): Russian Language in the Material Culture of Tajikistan  
Almagul Maimakova (Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan): Russian Language in the Mirror of the Kazakh Language Culture  
Leila Mirzoyeva & Aigul Zhumbekova (Demirel University, Kazakhstan): Russian Language and Culture as Mediators in Indirect Translation from English into Kazakh

2B: Crimea in Russian Cultural and Political Pracitcs (Auditorium III)  
CHAIR: Dragana Cvetanovic (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Arseniy Svinarenko (University of Tampere, Finland)  
Julia Gerlach (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany): “Like the Temple Mount in Jerusalem”: The Idea of “Sacred Space” in Contemporary Political Narratives of Crimea  
Alexander Smoljanski (Integrum World Wide, Russia): Reflection of Russian-Ukrainian Conflict in Mass Media and Social Networks of Russia and Ukraine  
John Nelson (University of Helsinki, Finland): Putin, the Crimea and the Ukraine - So What’s New?

2C: Roundtable: Cultural Institutions (Aud. IV)  
CHAIR: Sanna Turoma (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
Margarita Kuleva (Higher School of Economics, Russia)  
Meri Kulmala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
Vlad Strukov (University of Leeds, UK)  
Saara Ratilaainen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

2D: Nationalism, Borders, and Cultural Politics (Hall 13)  
CHAIR: Jussi Lassila (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Katja Ruutu (European University, Russia)  
Diana Shendrikova (Italian Institute for International Political Studies): Back to the “Roots”: The Ukrainian Crisis and the Multifacetedness of Russia’s Revived Nationalism  
Ilya Kalinin (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): “Russkiy Mir” and Two Conceptions of Border  
Göökem Atsunur (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan): Rethinking Russian Nationalism since 1990s: Sobornost as an Element of Social Mobilization  
Veera Laine (Finnish Institute of International Affairs): Contemporary Russian Nationalism – The State, Nationalist Movements, and the Shared Space in Between

2E: Integration in Post-Soviet Space (Auditorium XI)  
CHAIR: Anna Lowry (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Katri Pynnönen (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)  
Igor Temyshnev (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Problems of the Post-Soviet Space: Integration Issues  
Marina Henrikson (University of Manchester, UK): The Discursive Construction of the Russian ‘Us’: Citizenship and Compatriot Policy during the 2008 War in Georgia

Vadim Romashov (Tampere Peace Research Institute, University of Tampere, Finland): Integration and Regionalism: Russia’s Agenda for the Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in the New Geopolitical Conundrum  
Seyed Behzad Akhlaghi & Ali Rezae (Iqna News Agency, Iran): Persian-Russian Cultural Encounter in Tajikistan: from Confrontation to Cooperation

2F: Authoritarianism and Democracy (Aud. XII)  
CHAIR: Hanna Smith (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Vladimir Gel’mann (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)  
Magdalena Leichtova (University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic): Attraction of Authoritarianism - The Soft Power of Authoritarian Regime in Democratic Societies  
Gregory Popov (Moscow State Regional University, Russia): “We are not the West”: The Intellectual Opposition to Modernization in Russia in the Late XIX-Early XX Centuries and 1990-XXI Century in Comparison and Its Socio-Economic Background  
Olga Romanova (Cranfield University, UK): Between Internationalization and Uniqueness: Transformation of Foreign Policy Narratives in Russia  
Andrey Zaostrovtsev (European University, Russia): Why Russians Prefer Expansion to Consumption and Autocracy to Democracy?

2G: Culture and Politics, Politics of Culture (Auditorium XIV)  
CHAIR: Pekka Pesonen (University of Helsinki, Finland)  
DISCUSSANT: Susan Ikonen (University of Helsinki, Finland)  
Marina Gavrilova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Explication of a Concept “Culture” in Russian Political Discourse  
Anastasia Rekshinskaya (Moscow State Linguistic University, Russia): Moscow Cultural Modernization within the National Context: Controversies and Concessions
Ksenia Filimonova (Russian State University for the Humanities): Modernization of Soviet “Houses of Culture” in Moscow: Practices and Challenges

2H: Moral Panics in Russian New Media: Enter the Russian Orthodox Church (Hall 14)
CHAIR & DISCUSSANT: Mikhail Suslov (Uppsala University, Sweden)

2J: New Perspectives on Russian Women’s Studies (Hall 21)
CHAIR: Olga Davydova-Minguet (University of Eastern Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Anni Lappela (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Stephen Amico (University of Bergen, Norway): “The Russian Madonna?; Valeriana, Polypliconic Bodies, and Russian Expressive Culture in Global Context

Kirsti Ekonen (University of Turku, Finland): New Women in Contemporary Russia
Irina Yukina & Irina Sokhan (St.-P State University of Aerospace Instrumentation, Russia): Modern Intellectual Women: Corporal Practices of Self-Care and Academic Discourse

11:00-12:30 PANELS 3A-3J

3A: Challenges of Education (Auditorium II)
CHAIR: Katalin Miklóssy (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Ekaterina Protassova (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Polina Pekker (Moscow State University, Russia): Distance Education in Russia: Form or Technology
Maria Yashina (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Reasons and Problems of Receiving Home Education in Russia

3B: Cultural Encounters in Post-Soviet Era (Aud. III)
CHAIR: Minna Hakkarainen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Saara Ratilainen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Natella Mikheeva (Saint Petersburg State University of Economics, Russia): Germany in the Eyes of Modern Russians
Irina Rannak (Saint Petersburg State University of Economics, Russia): Socio-Cultural Identification of Russian-speaking Population of Estonia in the Evolution of Tourism Activity

Elena Belova (Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia): Почему санкции против России создали условия для активного развития российского туризма?

3C: The Concept of the Family in Contemporary Russia (Auditorium IV)
CHAIR: Anna Avdeeva (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Elena Zdravomysova (European University, Russia)
Esuna Dugarova (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Switzerland): Family in a New Social Contract in Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia

3D: Russians and Online News: Trolls, Choices and Editorial Change (Hall 13)
CHAIR: Marina Khmelnitskaya (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Jukka Pietiläinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Joanna Szostek (UCL-SSEES, UK): Views of the West among Russian Students: a Study of Narrative Reception

Rolf Fredheim (University of Cambridge, UK): Journalism Before and After Independence: the Case of Gazeta.ru
Gernot Howanitz (University of Passau, Germany): Trolling the West? Pro-Russian Commentaries in German-Language Online Media

3E: Literature and Society (Auditorium XI)
CHAIR: Liisa Bourgeot (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Sarah Hudspith (University of Leeds, UK)
Mika Perkiömäki (University of Tampere, Finland): “Rivers Are No Longer Nature for the Khole People”: The River in Sergey Zalýgin’s “An Ecological Novel”

Tatiana Arteymeova (Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia): Modern Russian Literature’s Social Diagnoses and Prognoses
Maija Knuuinen (University of Eastern Finland): Train Spotting in Russian Space

3F: Language of Mass Media as a Means of Culture Transmission (Auditorium XIII)
CHAIR: Liilya Duskaeva (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia)
DISCUSSANT: TBA
Liliya Duskaeva (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Conceptualization of the Values of National Culture in the Semantic and Stylistic Category of Evaluative

Yulia Konyaeva (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Speech Genre “Portrait of a Creative Personality” in Russian Journalism: Communicative Scenarios

Natalia Kornilova (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Event of Cultural Life in Russian Periodical Press
Alexey Goryachev (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Promotion of Cultural Projects in New Media: Communicative Scenarios and Speech Acts

3G: Cultural Contexts, Generations and Young People in Contemporary Russia (Auditorium XIV)
CHAIR: Mikhail Maslovski (Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)
DISCUSSANT: Päivi Honkatukia (University of Tampere, Finland)
Elena Omelchenko (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Does Soviet Matter? State Politics and Family Memory Cultures: Young People and Their (Grand) Parents

Yana Krupets (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Work Cultures and Meanings of Work for Two Generations of Russian Youth
Nadya Nartova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Elusive Youthfulness: Biopower and Construction of Age by Two Cohorts of Chronologically Young Women

3H: Legal Reforms and Criminal Culture in the Russian and Soviet Society (Hall 14)
CHAIR: Nikolai Smirnov (St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
DISCUSSANT: Timo Vihavainen (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Larisa Kangaspuro (University of Helsinki, Finland): Mutual Influence of Official and Criminal Culture in Pre-Revolutionary Russia - Взаимовлияние официальной и уголовной культуры в дореволюционной России

Ira Jänis-Isokangas (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Hooligans Speak Bolshhevik - Хулиганы говорят по-большевистски
Igor Sutuygin (Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, UK): The Phenomenon of Intra-Prison Corruption in Russia - Феномен внутритюремной коррупции в России

Miglena Dikova-Milanova (Ghost University, Belgium): Sentencing the Poet and the Swindler: Osip Mandelstam and Andrey Rubanov / Приговор поэту и мошеннику: Осип Мандельштам и Андрей Рубанов

1: Nikolai Bukharin - An Alternative Which Did Not Come True? (Hall 15)
CHAIR: Pertti Honkanen (Social Insurance Institution (Kela), Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Daniela Stella (University of Turin, Italy)
Wladyslaw Hedeler (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung)
Berlin, Germany): Nikolai Bukharin - Stalin’s Tragical Opponent. Questions about Biography (& Nikita Petrov (Moscow State University, Russia): The Moscow Process of 1938 against Bukharin and Others)

Alexander Vatlin (Moscow State University, Russia): Bukharin and the Komintern

Craig Brandist (University of Sheffield, UK): Bukharin, Gramsci and the Problem of Cultural Hegemony

Vesa Ollittinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Nikolai Bukharin’s Interpretation of Marxism - An Alternative to Stalinism?

3: Slavic Paganism in Russia Today (Hall 21)

CHAIR: Sanna Turoma (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

DISCUSSANT: Alicja Curanovic (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Aleksy Gaidukov (Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia): The Quarter-Century Dynamics of the Russian Neo-Paganism (Rodnovery)

Roman Shizhensky (Nizhny Novgorod State Pedagogical University, Russia): On the Source Base of the Russian Pagan Diaspora (According to Field Research) / К вопросу об источниковом основе русской языковой диссипации (по данным полевых исследований)

Kaarina Aitamurto (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Gender in Russian Rodnovery

12:30-14.00 Lunch break

14:30-16.00 PANELS 4A-4J

4A: Russia in Polish Political Science Research Perspective. Selected Problems (Auditorium II)

CHAIR: Wojciech Nowiak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)

DISCUSSANT: Tadeusz Wallas (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)

Andrzej Stelmach & Stanislaw Zbyrowicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland): Russian and Polish Democracy in Comparative Perspective

Wojciech Nowiak & Dominika Narozna (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland): The Impact of Polish Media on the Poles’ Perception of Russia. Political Science and Media Study

4B: Discourse of Power in Contemporary Russia (Auditorium III)

CHAIR: Aleksei Shmelev (Moscow Pedagogical State University, Russia)

DISCUSSANT: Kirill Postoutenko (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Irina Levontina (Vinogradov Russian Language Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences): Evolution of Key Words of Russian Power Discourse

Elena Shmeleva (Vinogradov Russian Language Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences): Language of Russian Orthodox Church at Present: a Mixture of Stylistic

Levon Saakyan & Olga Severskaia (Pushkin State Russian Language Institute, Russia): Texts and Subtexts in the Modern Russian Informational Broadcasting: Euphemism, Desphemization and Other Ways of Semantic Dominance Forming

Alexander Grishchenko (Moscow Pedagogical State University, Russia): The Words Mordy ‘Snouts,’ Rozhi ‘Mugs,’ and Litsa ‘Faces’ in the Russian Ethnic Slurs

4C: Modernisation of Russia - Agency and Choices of the Russian Orthodox Church (Auditorium IV)

CHAIR: Elina Kahla (University of Helsinki, Finland)

DISCUSSANT: Boris Knorre (Higher School of Economics, Russia)

Elina Kahla (University of Helsinki, Finland): Special Prayers for Ukraine

Bishop Mitrofan (ROC Diocese of Severomorsk and Umba, Russia): Св. князь Владимир и его уникальный опыт правления, как пример для современного общества

Antoine Fr. Lévy (University of Eastern Finland): Orthodoxo and the Jewish Issue

Katya Toledo (INASEC, Netherlands): Traditional Modernisation? Theology after Gulag, Orthodox Discourse on Human Dignity, and Imago Dei

4D: Narratives of Patriotism in Film (Hall 13)

CHAIR: Hanna Ruutu (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

DISCUSSANT: Ira Österberg (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Victoria Dudina (St. Petersburg State University, Russia): Potentialities of Social Media Analysis for Research of Public Consciousness: Discussions of Film “Leviathan” in Russian Internet

David McVey (University of Kansas, USA): The Past is Now: Pavel Lungin’s Reflective Adaption Homeland (2013)

Susan Ikonen (University of Helsinki, Finland): Return to Cold War Cultural Discourses, or How to Portray Soviet / Russian Fatherland

4E: Cultural Factors in the Modernization Process of Russia (Auditorium XI)

CHAIR: Arto Mustajoki (University of Helsinki, Finland)

DISCUSSANT: Jouni Vaahtera (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Nadezhda Lebedeva (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Cultural Barriers of the Russian Modernization

Arto Mustajoki (University of Helsinki, Finland): Russian Mind: Myth and Reality

Tatiana Larina (Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia): Cultural Values as Accelerators and Decelerators of Modernization in Russia

Ekaterina Protassova (University of Helsinki, Finland): Interculturality of Russianness

4F: Heritage, Monuments, and Cultural Landscapes (Auditorium XIII)

CHAIR: Leo Granberg (University of Helsinki, Finland)

DISCUSSANT: Ann-Mari Sätre (Uppsala University, Sweden)

Nadir Kinossian (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany): ‘Recycling’ of Soviet Imagery in the Cultural Landscape of Arctic Towns

Birgitte Beck Pristed (Aarhus University, Denmark): New Russian ‘Roadside Architecture’: Monumental Culture of the Periphery

Corinne Geering (University of Giessen, Germany): Disenchanted ‘Enthusiast’? Social Movements for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Post-Soviet Russian Identity Formation

4G: Shifting Journalistic Cultures: Challenges for Innovating Journalists and Media Managers (Auditorium XIV)

CHAIR: Katja Lehtisaari (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

DISCUSSANT: Elena Vartanova (Moscow State University, Russia)

Veronika Fors (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Political Culture of Russian Journalists as Part of the Culture of Society (2001-2013)

Margarita Khartonovich (University of Tamper, Finland): The Current State and Future Forms of Russian Music Magazines

Katja Lehtisaari (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) & François Nel (University of Central Lancashire, UK): Play, Pause, Stop? Newsmedia Managers’ Perspectives on Change

4H: The Reach and Limits of Cultural Explanations vs. Institutional Theory in Political Science (Hall 14)

CHAIR: Katri Pynnöniemi (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

DISCUSSANT: Sirke Mäkinen (University of Tampere, Finland)

Olga Malinova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Exploring Symbolic Dimension of Social Protest: Analysis of Protest Campaign Dynamics (Moscow in 2011-2012)

Lyubov Fadeeva (Perm State University, Russia): Russian Political Identity Construction: Culture Vs. Institutions

Irina Bussygina (MGIMO, Russia): Modernization Problem and Modernization Strategy in Russia: What Stories Do Institutional and Cultural Approaches Tell Us?

4I: Modernity and Authenticity in Russian Thought (Hall 15)

CHAIR: Mikhail Maslovski (Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences)

DISCUSSANT: Evert van der Zweerde (Radboud University, Netherlands)

Susanna Rabow-Edling (Uppsala University, Sweden): Nationalism and Idealism in Russian Pre-Revolutionary Liberal Thought

Käre Johan Mjör (Uppsala University, Sweden): Between Ideology and Nauka: Russia’s First Visions of an Indigenous Philosophy
Mikhail Suslov (Uppsala University, Sweden): "...The Enemy Who Depersonalized Us and Enslaved Us": The Concept of "Germanness" in Late Imperial Debates on Authenticity

4J: Changing Images and Subjectivities (Hall 21)
CHAIR: Saara Ratilainen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Ekaterina Kalinina (Swedish Defence University)
Arja Rosenholm (University of Tampere, Finland): Cultural History Meets Environmental History
Suvi Salmenniemi (University of Turku, Finland): Therapeutic Technologies and Political Resistance
Irina Savkina (University of Tampere, Finland): Пески и Толстой: новые образы Америки и России в российских изданиях

16.00-16.30 Coffee (Small Hall Lobby and Ground Floor Lobby of the Old Side)
16.30-18.00 PANELS 5A-5J

5A: Public Muteness Syndrome: Problems of Public Debates in Russia (Auditorium II)
CHAIR: Nikolai Vakhtin (European University, Russia)
DISCUSSANT: Tatiana Vaizer (RANEPA / Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Boris Gladarev (Center for Independent Social Research, Russia): Attempts to Overcome Public Aphasia: the Study of Public Discussions in Russia at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century
Kapitolina Fedorova (European University, Russia): "Distances of Vast Dimensions...": Official versus Public Language (Material from Meetings of the Organizing Committees of Mass Events, January–February 2012)
Alekandra Kasatkina (Kunstakamera, Russia): In Search of a New Meaning: Current Public Discourse in Russian Allotment Associations

5B: Cultural Sociology (Auditorium III)
CHAIR: Anna Korhonen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Jukka Gronow (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Ilya Vinkovetsky (Simon Fraser University, Canada): The Making of a National Drink: Tea as a Broker of Cultural Contact and Russia’s Window on Asia
Tatjana Lipiäinen (University of Eastern Finland): Afro-Brazilian Moves in Russian Bodies
Olga Boitsova & Ekatrina Orekh (Kunstakamera, Russian Academy of Sciences): Short or Long, Pink or Black? "Soviet Taste" and Westernization in Post-Soviet Children’s Fashion

5C: Russian Orthodoxy (Auditorium IV)
CHAIR: Mikhail Suslov (Uppsala University, Sweden)
DISCUSSANT: Maija Penttilä (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Jacob Lassin (Yale University, USA): The Co-option and Re-imagination of Russian Realism on the Orthodox Internet
Boris Knorre (Higher School of Economics, Russia): 'Political Orthodoxy' in the Post-Soviet Area as a Social-Cultural Phenomenon
Aleksandr Churkin (Independent scholar): St. Ignatius Brianchaninov and the Russian Religious Conservatism

5D: Conspiracy Theories in Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia (Hall 13)
CHAIR: Valerii Vyiug (Institute of Russian Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences)
DISCUSSANT: Sergei Shtyrovsky (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia)
Anna Razuvalova (Institute of Russian Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences): Conspiracy Theories in Postmillennial Russia and the New Political Course (Alekandr Prokhanov and Aleksandr Dugin)
Konstantin Bogdanov (Institute of Russian Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences): Alternative Healing Practices in Post-Soviet Russia: Conspiracy Theories and Social Trust
Alexander Panchenko (Institute of Russian Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences): The Beast Computer in Brussels: Apocalypticism, Conspiracy Theories, and Moral Panics in Post-Soviet Russia

5E: Business, Competition, and Cultural Environments (Auditorium XI)
CHAIR: Hanna Peltonen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Mila Oiva (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Larisa Korganashvili (Tbilisi State University, Georgia): Cultural Environment of International Business in Russia
Katalin Miklóssy (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Competition and Individualism in Socialist Education
Anna Pinkevich & Andrei Aleinikov (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Models and Strategies of Conflict Interaction Between Business and Authority: The Case of Russia

5F: Soft Power and Cultural Interaction (Auditorium XIII)
CHAIR: Sarı Autio-Sarasma (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Julia Gerlach (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany)
Meri Herrala (University of Helsinki, Finland): From Systemic, Ideological and Cultural Antagonism to the Cultural Interchange of the Superpowers from Stalin to Khrushchev and Beyond
Pia Koivunen (University of Tampere, Finland): Exhibiting Russia. Russian Cultural Diplomacy at World Fairs
Julia Simpanen (University of Tampere, Finland): Global Art Forums and Foreign Policy: The Soviet Union and Russia in Venice Biennales
Elena Kochetkova (University of Helsinki, Finland): Soviet Engineers, Finland and the Iron Curtain, 1955-64

5G: Ethnicity and Cultural Politics (Auditorium XIV)
CHAIR: Markku Kangaspuro (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Nikolay Mitrokhin (University of Bremen, Germany)
Ivan Grinho (Laboratory of Museum Design and Planning, Russia): Russian Museums as «Soft Power» in Ethnopolitics
Maria Tagangaseva (University of St.Gallen, Switzerland): Cultural Representation of Eurasianism in Russia and Russian Asian Republics
Konstantin Zamyatin (University of Helsinki, Finland): Power Sharing or Ethnic Domination? Methods of Diversity Management in the Republics of Post-Soviet Russia

5H: Media Functions and Information Reception (Hall 14)
CHAIR: Irina Khaldarova (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Katja Lehtisaari (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Irina Privalova (Saratov State Medical University, Russia): Does It Always Hit the Target?: Cultural Issues of Information Perception through the Russian New Media
Julia Balashova (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): The Transformation of Media Criticism Functions in Contemporary Russia
Anastasia Kazun (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Why Russians Are Not Afraid of the Economic Sanctions? The Counterheterarchic Strategies of the Print Media

5I: Russian Philosophical Culture Now and Then (Hall 15)
CHAIR: Evert van der Zweerde (Radboud University, Netherlands)
DISCUSSANT: Sanna Turoma (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Käre Johan Mjör (Uppsala University, Sweden): Between Universalism and Nationalism: Soviet Historiography of National Philosophies
Edward Swiderski (University of Fribourg, Switzerland): Russian Philosophers’ Self-Evaluation Today
Vesa Oittinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Philosophical Cultures in General and in Russia - Methodological Considerations

5J: Regional Identities (Hall 21)
CHAIR: Ekaterina Kalinina (Swedish Defence University)
DISCUSSANT: Margarita Kuleva (Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Marina Maguidovitch (Herzen State Pedagogical University, Saint Petersburg State University,
Russia): The Potential of Cultural Industries for Improving the Quality of Life of Young People by the Example of Regional Empirical Study of the Murmansk
Milosz Zielinski (Polish Academy of Sciences): Was Immanuel Kant a Loser? Spraying of Philosopher’s House in March 2015 and the Future of Kaliningrad Oblast and Its Identity
Anna Nemirovskaya (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Social Identities and Subjective Well-Being in the Regions of Russia
Lena Sidorova & Marina Maguidovitch (North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Russia; Herzen State Pedagogical University, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): East Siberian City Yakutsk: Symbols of New Identity

18.30-22.00 Reception hosted by the Aleksanteri Institute and the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies (Unioninkatu 33, 3rd floor)
BOOK LAUNCH: Markku Kangaspuro, Vesa Oittinen (eds.): Discussing Stalinism: Problems and Approaches (Helsinki: Aleksanteri Institute, 2015)
MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

10:00-12:00 Plenary Session II (Small Hall)
CHAIR: Dr. Katja Lehtisaaari, Editor-in-Chief of the Finnish Journal for Russian and East-European Studies, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
Evert van der Zweerde, Professor in Political Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands: Democracy in Russia - Perspectives, Expectations, Concepts
Elena Vartanova, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Journalism, Moscow State University, Russia: High or Low? Mass Media as a Driving Force of Contemporary (Russian) Culture

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13.00-14.30 PANELS 6A-6H

6A: Roundtable: Cultural Statecraft and Russian Foreign Policy (Auditorium II)
CHAIR: Tuomas Forsberg (University of tampere, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Hanna Smith (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Christr Pusrlainen (Arctic University of Norway)
Andrey Makarychev (Tartu University, Estonia)
Olga Malinova (Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Irina Bussygina (MGIMO, Russia)

6B: Alternative Identities in Russia and Beyond (Auditorium III)
CHAIR: Sigrid Kaasik-Krogerus (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Olga Davydova-Minguet (University of Eastern Finland)
Maria Rubins (University College London, UK): Russian Culture beyond Russian Boundaries: Diaspora as Alternative?
Anni Lappela (University of Helsinki, Finland): “Marina Couldn’t Learn That I Was Not a Foreigner”: Local and National Identities in Alisa Ganjeva’s prose
Ioana Marian (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania): Cultural Identity in a De-Facto State - Transnistria

6C: Aspects of Jewish / Yiddish culture in the Russian Empire (incl. Finland) (Auditorium IV)
CHAIR: Simo Mannila (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Roger Nieuweboer (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Valery Dymshits (European University, Russia): Finland in the Russian Jewish Literature
Alexander Ivanov (European University, Russia): Researching Jewish History in the Light of Materials from Vyborg Archives

6D: Civilizational Perspectives on Russian Culture, Politics, and Society – (Hall 13)
CHAIR: Markku Kivinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Markku Kangaspuro (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Fabian Linde (Uppsala University, Sweden): At the Sources of the Russian Civilizational Turn: Samuel P. Huntington’s Civilizational Paradigm
Yulia Prozorova (Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences: Intercivilizational Encounter with the West: Political Discourse and Post-Soviet Version of Modernity in Russia
Mikhail Maslovskii (Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences): Cultural Sociology, Civilizational Analysis and Post-Soviet Studies
Jutta Scherrer (EHESS, France): The Concepts of “Culture” and “Civilization” in Post-Soviet Discourses

6E: Cultural Forms of Motherhood in Contemporary Russia and Former Soviet Republics (Auditorium XI)
CHAIR: Elena Bogdanova (CISR, Russia / University of Eastern Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Zhanha Chernova (Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Esuna Dugarova (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Switzerland): Parental Support Policies in Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia
Larisa Shpakovskaya (Higher School of Economics, Russia): How to Be a Responsible Mother: the Case of Middle Class Mothering in Russia
Anna Avdeeva (University of Helsinki, Finland): Natural Parenting as Radical Choice of Russian Mothers
Alisa Zhabenko (University of Helsinki, Finland): Choosing the Sperm Donor in Lesbian Couples in Russia

6F: Putin and the Russian Idea (Auditorium XIII)
CHAIR: Anna-Liisa Heusula (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Pami Aalto (University of Tamper, Finland)
Daniela Stelia (University of Turin, Italy): Is “Collectivism” Part of the Ideological Dispositive in Putin’s Russia?
Katja Ruutu (European University, Russia): The Culture of Russian Statehood Concepts
Daniel Philipp Müller (University Of Giessen, Germany): Contradictions in Putin’s Recent Nationality Policies: ’Rossiyane’ as Russians
Indrani Talukdar (Indian Council of World Affairs): Reconstructing a Uniform National and Geopolitical Russian Identity: Rationale behind Blending of Nationalism and Culture

CHAIR: Mika Perkiömäki (University of Tampere, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Kaarina Aitamurto (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Julia Sweet (Rutgers University, USA): Terrorism and Radical Islam in Public Perception: Myths and Truth
Alexandra Astapenko (Higher School of Economics, Russia): “Creative Class” as “Floating Signifier” in Russian Mass Media Discourses in 2004-2015
Jussi Lassila (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) & Tomi Huttunen (University of Helsinki, Finland): Idols, Experiences and Catachretic Politics: Becoming a Natsbol in Nizhny Novgorod

6H: Education and Science: Challenges and Choices (Hall 14)
CHAIR: Elina Kahla (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSIONANT: Katalin Miklóssy (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Mikhail Mikeshin (The National Mineral Resources University, Russia): The Image of Science in Russian Education
Anna Zhbannikova & Evgeniya Kutergina (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Educational and Recruitment Problems of Public Administration Students in Russia: Evidence from Empirical Research
Tatiana A. Shakurskaya & Violetta M. Khabibulina (Pavlov First St. Petersburg State Medical University, Russia): Barriers to Modernization and Synchronization with International Educational System at Russian Medical University: Cultural Aspects

14:45-16.15 PANELS 7A-7J

7A: Violence, Conflict, and Resolution (Auditorium II)
CHAIR: Arkadi Moshes (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)
DISCUSSANT: Tuomas Forsberg (University of Tampere, Finland)

Sinikukka Saari (Finnish Institute of International Affairs): Russia and Georgia: Is There Any Room for Trust and Cooperation?


Maria Matvekevich (Sociological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences): Collective Memory as a Resource in Conflicts

Dumitru Minzarari & Ion Stavila (University of Michigan, USA): A Value-Based Explanation of the Russian Foreign Policy in the CIS

7B: Ceremony, Nostalgia, and Memory Politics (Auditorium III)
CHAIR: Anna-Maria Salmi (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Natalia Baschmakoff (University of Eastern Finland)

Marco Siddi (Finnish Institute of International Affairs): 70 Years After: The Evolving Russian and EU Memory Politics of Victory Day in the Second World War

Dimitri Bratkin (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Meeting with the Veterans’ (аспекту в неранама) as ‘Oral Non-History’ and Para-Religious Ceremony

Olga Davydoova-Minguet (University of Eastern Finland): Commemorations of the WWII in the Finnish-Russian Borderlands: is Transnational Politics of Memory possible?

Elena Fedotova (Higher School of Economics, Russia): Nostalgia Phenomenon in British and Russian TV Series (2012-2014)

7C: Marx and Russia (Auditorium IV)
CHAIR: Vesa Oittinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Paula Rauhala (University of Tampere)

Alexander Buzgalin (Moscow State University, Russia): Marxism in Modern Russia - Differentia specifica of Post-Soviet School of Critical Marxism

Pertti Honkanen (Social Insurance Institution (Kela), Finland): Peculiarities of Early Russian Marxism

Vesa Oittinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Marx and Russian Anarchism

Mikhail Voeikov (Moscow State University, Russia): TBA

7D: Conservative (Re)Turn and Biopolitics in Russian Culture and Consumption (Hall 13)
CHAIR: Liudmila Voronova (Gävle University, Sweden)
DISCUSSANT: Vlad Strukov (Leeds University, UK)

Andrej Makarychev (Tartu University, Estonia): Biopolitical Patriotism in Russian Cultural Narratives

Ekaterina Kalinina (Swedish Defence University): Patriotism and Women’s Representations in Russian Contemporary War Films

Olga Gurova (University of Helsinki, Finland): Political Consumerism in Russia after 2011

7E: Civilizational Perspectives on Russian Culture, Politics and Society – II (Auditorium XIV)
CHAIR: Kaarina Aitamurto (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Kåre Johan Mjør (Uppsala University, Sweden)

Elena Ostrovskaya (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Multiple Modernities Through the Lens of Religion: The Case of Multiple Religiousness of St.-Petersburg Jews

Vladimir Kozlovskii (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Regimes of Civilizational Order in Contemporary Russian Society

Ruslan Braslavskii (Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences): Interpretative Patterns of Russian Modernization: Civilizational Analysis

7F: Political Use of History and Cultural Heritage (Auditorium XIII)
CHAIR: Liisa Byckling (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Nadir Kinossian (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany)

Kirill Solovyov (Russian State University for the Humanities): The Strong State and the Obedient People: The Use of History in Contemporary Russia

Adrian Selin (Higher School of Economics, Russia): ‘Rurik and His Anniversaries

Sarah Hudspith (University of Leeds, UK): War and Peace in Putin’s Russia: 19th Century Literature in Contemporary Russian Cultural Policy

7G: Resistance and Protest (Auditorium XIV)
CHAIR: Akmal Sokhibov (University of Magdeburg, Germany)
DISCUSSANT: Dmitry Yagodin (University of Tampere, Finland)

Anastasia Denisova (CAMRI, University of Westminster, UK): Internet Memes as the Means of Carnivalesque Resistance in Contemporary Russia

Alexandra Arkhipova, Daria Radchenko & Alexey Titkov (RANEPA, Russia): Contesting Memories: the 2014-2015 Moscow Rallies

7H: Religious Diversity and the State (Hall 14)
CHAIR: Kimmo Kääriäinen (University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: Elna Kahla (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Maija Penttilä (University of Helsinki, Finland): Russian-Speaking Religious Communities and Identities in St Petersburg and Helsinki Metropolitan Area

Igor Mikeshin (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Russian Evangelicalism Globalized

Mekhti Sharifov (Russian Academy of Lawyers and Notaries): State Sovereignty at Vesting of Religious Status of Functions Public Administration

7I: Meaning of Popular Music(s) in Soviet and Post-Soviet Cultural Spaces (Hall 15)
CHAIR: Vesa Oittinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
DISCUSSANT: John Nelson (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Ira Österberg (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Rock as Gentle Subversion in the Films of Dinara Anasova

Dragana Cvetanovic (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) & Lev Shishov (Bobish IS-Flowjob): St. Petersburg and its B-Boys: Hip Hop and Youth Policies

7J: The Russia-Netherlands Bilateral Year: Success or Failure? (Hall 21)
CHAIR: Hans van Koningsbrugge (University of Groningen, Netherlands)
DISCUSSANT: Katalin Miklössy (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Hans van Koningsbrugge (University of Groningen, Netherlands): The Russia-Netherlands Bilateral Year: Successes, Failures, Opportunities, Threats

Manuel Waegemanns (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium): Culture and Education in the Russia-Netherlands year

Rob van der Ploeg (Chamber of Commerce, Province of Groningen, Netherlands): The Economic Russia-Netherlands Year: Success or Failure?

16:15-16:45 Coffee (Small Hall Lobby)

16:45-17:45 Plenary Session III (Small Hall, Main Building)
CHAIR: Dr. Kaarina Aitamurto, Chief Coordinator of Aleksanteri Conference, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Vlad Strukov, Associate Professor in Digital Culture, University of Leeds, UK: The Conservative Turn: Culture as Politics in Putin’s Russia

17:45-18.00 Closing Ceremony (Small Hall, Main Building)

Markku Kivinen, Professor, Director of Aleksanteri Institute
CATRIONA KELLY

Catriona Kelly is Professor of Russian at the University of Oxford and one of the foremost cultural historians of modern Russia. She has published widely on Russian culture, especially of the Late Imperial and Soviet periods; her interests range from modernist poetry to the visual arts, women’s writing and cultural history.


Her Aleksanteri Conference keynote address is titled Russia and Europe, 1991-2014: La Grande Désillusion.

VLAD STRUKOV

Vlad Strukov is Associate Professor in Digital Culture at the University of Leeds. His research interests include digital media, visual culture, popular culture, film and television, with a particular emphasis on space, consumption and identity. Prior to his present appointment, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at University College London. In 1998-2002 Strukov was an Assistant Professor at the University of Voronezh. In 2003-2005 Strukov was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was also a Research Fellow in 2001 and 2002. He has also taught and researched extensively at the Universities of Helsinki, London, Edinburgh, Leuven and Moscow.

His publications include Celebrity and Glamour in Contemporary Russian Culture: Shocking Chic (co-ed. with H. Goscio, Indiana University Press 2010); New Media in New Europe-Asia (co-ed. with J. Morris and N. Rulyova, Routledge 2014); and From Central to Digital: Television in Russia (co-ed. with V. Zvereva, Voronezh UP 2014). Strukov is the founding and principal editor of a journal entitled Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media (Digital Icons).

His Aleksanteri Conference keynote address is titled The Conservative Turn: Culture as Politics in Putin’s Russia.

VERA TOLZ

Vera Tolz is Sir William Mather Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Manchester. Her current, AHRC-funded project, ‘Mediating post-Soviet difference: an analysis of Russian television representation of inter-ethnic cohesion issues’ addresses Russian state television’s approach to ethnic tensions. Tolz’s interests include nationalism and ethnic politics in modern and contemporary Russia; Oriental studies and national identity in imperial and early Soviet Russia; and comparative imperial history.

Her publications include The Demise of the USSR: From Communism to Independence (ed., Macmillan 1995); Russia: Inventing the Nation (Arnold/Hodder Headline Group 2001); Gender and Nation in Contemporary Russia (edited, Manchester 2005); ‘Russia’s own Orient’: The Politics of Identity and Oriental Studies in the Late Imperial and Early Soviet Periods (Oxford 2011); and Nation, Ethnicity and Race on Russian Television (co-authored with S. Hitchens, Routledge 2013).

Her Aleksanteri Conference keynote address is titled Projecting the Nation: Media Events and Changing Narratives of Nationhood in Putin’s Russia.

ELENA VARTANOVA

Elena Vartanova is Professor and the Dean of the Faculty of Journalism at the Lomonosov Moscow State University. She lectures on media economics, contemporary foreign media systems with a special focus on Nordic media, and Russian media model in global context. Vartanova has published several monographs (in Russian) on the Nordic media model, European information society and media economics. In 1996, she founded and headed the Centre for Finnish-Russian Studies of Culture and Mass Media at the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

Her monograph, Northern Model at the End of the Century: Press, TV, and Broadcasting Among Government and Market Regulation (1997) was awarded Shuvalov’s Prize by Moscow University. She co-edited Russian Media Challenge (Kikimora Publications 2002), to which she also contributed a chapter on media structures in Russia. The manual Media Economics of Foreign Countries was published in 2003, the first book to cover this subject area in Russia. Vartanova is also the founder and editor-in-chief of several published and electronic editions, for example: Medi@Manac, MediaScop and MediaTrends. Her scientific articles, monographs and manuals have been translated into many foreign languages and published all around the world.

Her Aleksanteri Conference keynote address is titled High or Low? Mass Media as a Driving Force of Contemporary (Russian) Culture.

EVERT VAN DER ZWEERDE

Evert van der Zweerde is Professor of Political Philosophy at the Radboud University Nijmegen. He is interested in the various forms of established politics at a variety of levels (regimes and policies, democratic politics, government and opposition, etc.) and the underlying issue of ‘the political’, i.e. the ubiquitous possibility of conflict. Zweerde has analysed these topics in the contexts of European politics, Russia, the South Caucasus and the Middle East. The themes which he has examined in his numerous publications include the concept of civil society and religious traditions, especially Orthodox Christianity and Islam. He has led research projects on the Russian philosopher/theologian Vladimir Solov’ëv, the ‘borders’ between Orthodox Christianity and ‘the West’, repertoires of democracy (as part of a nationwide programme on Contested Democracy), and nation, religion and democracy in the South Caucasus. In all these cases, his focus is on concepts.

His publications include Civil Society, Religion, and the Nation: Modernization in Intercultural Context: Russia, Japan, Turkey (co-ed. with W. Cornelissen and G. Steunenbrink, Rodopi 2005); Soviet Historiography of Philosophy. Istoriiko-Filosofskaja Nauka (Springer 2010); Orthodox Christianity and Human Rights (co-ed. with A. Brüning, Peeters 2012); and Religion, Nation and Democracy in the South Caucasus (co-ed. with A. Agadjanian and A. Jödicke, Routledge 2015). Zweerde is the co-editor of the series Reclaiming the Boundaries: Thinking the Political for Rowman & Littlefield Publications.

His Aleksanteri Conference keynote address is titled Democracy in Russia - Perspectives, Expectations, Concepts.
KALLE KNIIVILÄ

Kalle Kniivilä was born in Joensuu in eastern Finland in 1965. He majored in Eastern European studies, history and Russian at the University of Lund in Sweden. He also studied Russian at Leningrad State University in 1989-1990. During 1991-1992 he was the Moscow correspondent for the Finnish left-wing daily Kansan Uutiset. Since 1997 he has been employed by Sydsvenska Dagbladet in Malmö, the largest daily newspaper in the south of Sweden, where he was foreign editor in 2011-2013. Since 2003 he has coordinated several media development projects financed by the Swedish International Development Agency in Belarus and Russia. He runs Glasnost.se, the best Russian blog in Sweden, according to the Stockholm daily, Svenska Dagbladet.

His first book, Putin’s people (fin. Putinin viikset), was published in 2014, simultaneously in Swedish, Finnish and Esperanto. The book received excellent reviews and the Finnish version was awarded the prestigious Kanava prize for the best non-fiction book of 2014. His second book, Crimea is ours, was published simultaneously in Swedish, Finnish and Esperanto on March 18, 2015, the first anniversary of the annexation of Crimea.

IRINA PROKHOROVA

Irina Prokhorova, literary critic and cultural historian (PhD), is the head of The New Literary Observer magazine and publishing house. In 1992, she founded the first independent academic journal in Russia, Novoe Literaturnoe Obzorenie (The New Literary Observer), dealing with the theory and history of literature and literary criticism. This periodical has now become the leading Russian intellectual journal, not only covering literature, but also offering a picture of contemporary Russian culture and exploring the problems of Russian literature within a wider global cultural context. In 1995, Irina Prokhorova founded a publishing house of the same name. Its activity includes book series ranging from philosophy to children’s literature, art studies, modern poetry, new cinema, history, and everyday culture. Ms. Prokhorova is also co-founder of the Mikhail Prokhorov Fund. The priority of the Fund is to support the development of new cultural institutions and initiatives in Russia, as well as promoting Russian culture in the global intellectual community.

She has been honoured by the Government of the Russian Federation for the New Literary Observer magazine (2002), and received the independent American award, Liberty, for her contribution to the development of Russo-American cultural relations (2003). In 2005, Ms. Prokhorova became Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), and a laureate of the Andrey Bely prize for literature (2006). In 2012 she became Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur of France.

ROMAN SENCHIN

Roman Senchin was born and raised in the Republic of Tuva in Siberia. Having completed his engineering studies, he went on to study at the Maxim Gorky Literature Institute in Moscow, where he still lectures today. Nowadays, he also lives in Moscow. He is one of the leading literary luminaries of his generation: his prose works have been awarded several important literary prizes in Russia, and their rights have been sold to several European countries. So far his works have been translated into German, French, Finnish and a number of other languages. He is also a highly acclaimed playwright.

His break-through novel The Eltisyev Family (2010) is a grim story of a family struggling to survive in rural post-Soviet Russia. The uncompromising narrative and unyielding style have been associated with Russia’s great realist tradition, and Senchin is frequently associated with the ‘New Realism’ of contemporary Russian literature.

ARTEMY TROITSKY

Artemy Troitsky is a Russian journalist, music critic, concert promoter, broadcaster and academic who has taught classes on music journalism at Moscow State University. He was born in 1955 in Yaroslavl, but spent most of his formative years in Prague. After moving back to Russia (then the USSR) in 1972, he became the first DJ in Moscow.

Troitsky has been active as the leading expert and promoter of the new Russian music and culture before and after perestroika. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he organised underground concerts and festivals of Soviet rock music bands, among them Mashina Vremeni, Dinamik, Zoopark, and Kino. He was one of the organisers of the first such concert in the Soviet Union. Currently Troitsky is living in Tallinn, Estonia, and working as a lecturer at the Tallinn and Helsinki Universities.

**RECENT EVENTS AT THE INSTITUTE**

**UKRAINE: THE CRISIS WITH NO END IN SIGHT**

Hanna Ruutu

In August, the Aleksanteri Institute, in cooperation with three publishing houses, organised a roundtable discussion on Ukraine chaired by Professor Markku Kangaspuro. The event gathered more than 100 listeners in the University Main Building. The expertise behind the podium was indeed considerable, as the participants were prominent specialists on the country, on Russia and on the difficult political situation as a whole.

The panellists were unfortunately in unison about the fact that no easy solution to the on-going crisis was to be expected in the near future. As put by the journalist Anna-Lena Laurén, the war in Donbass will continue for a long time in the future, and Ukraine will actually need its own Nelson Mandela, a great leader that will unify the divided country. Kalle Knivilä, also a journalist and researcher, stated that a faint hope could be found in the slowly burgeoning civil society in Ukraine, although in the present circumstances, a frozen conflict might indeed prove to be the best solution. The researcher Johannes Remy added that a change in the current crisis might take place, if and when the leadership changes either in Ukraine or in Russia, but not before. The internal development of Ukraine is a big question mark in itself, thus far balancing between democracy and more authoritarian rule. Researcher Hanna Smith from the Aleksanteri Institute found the roots of the crisis to lie partly in Russia’s identity as great power, indicating that the region of Ukraine constitutes a part of this identity. The escalation of the crisis was due to miscalculations on Russia’s side, not taking into account the needs of civil society in Ukraine, only the elite, and it seems that Russia has painted itself into a corner, entering “a war that should be won but now cannot be won,” as Smith put it.

Even if some more positive perspectives were found in Ukraine’s steps toward the strengthening of democratic processes and in the burgeoning civil society, all of the participants concluded that it is fully possible that they will meet again next year behind the same table, discussing the situation in Donbass.

**FIELD TRIP TO YAMAL-NENETS AUTONOMOUS REGION**

Daria Gritsenko

For researchers Daria Gritsenko, Jussi Huotari and Hilma Salonen, the new academic year began with an exciting field trip to the Yamal peninsula in the framework of the project “Russia’s final energy frontier: Sustainability challenges of the Russian Far North” led by Professor Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen. The project is a cooperation between the Universities of Helsinki, Turku and Hokkaido, and one of its central aims is to understand the ways in which socioeconomic development and environmental responsibility are practised in the Russian Far North.

The geography of the trip included Salekhard, the capital of the Yamal-Nenets autonomous region, as well as the smaller settlements of Payuta, Kharp and Labytnangi. During the visit, researchers from the Finnish-Japanese delegation visited regional administrative, research, educational and municipal organisations to collect empirical evidence that shows how evolving energy policy affects socioeconomic development and sustainability in the region. Besides academic meetings and interviews, the team had an opportunity to experience indigenous culture, take part in a traditional Nenets dinner consisting of reindeer, fish and cloudberry and visit local historical and natural sights. Hundreds of photographs and pages of field diary will keep the memories of the trip alive, whereas new scientific deliverables will follow during the next months, so stay tuned!

**SCIENCE IN THE SAUNA**

Iiris Virtasalo

In Finland, it is said that all the problems can be solved in sauna. RussiaHUB Helsinki took this idea into the next level by organising a Russian sauna event in Suomenlinna. The event was organised in the Naval Academy of Finland, the home of naval military training and the biggest wood-heated sauna in the world. The goal was to discuss the three big challenges Russia is facing: economy, security, and climate change. The topics were first tackled by director Markku Kivinen (Aleksanteri Institute), CEO Raimo Valo (East Office), Lieutenant Senior Grade James Mashiri (Finnish Defence Forces), Senior Researcher Katri Pynnöneniemi (FIIA) and Academy professor Markku Kulmala (Atmospheric Sciences, University of Helsinki).

After the presentations, the speakers and audience had a chance to continue the debate in the warmth of the world’s biggest sauna. The event was part of the Thinkfest week, an open urban science festival organised by the University of Helsinki.

**COOPERATION WITH THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

A joint seminar was organized at Aleksanteri Institute in the beginning of September in order to discuss the development of the welfare state in China, Finland, Russia and Europe, the institutional changes and the challenges these entail. Among the speakers of the seminar were professor Chunling Li (CASS) and Göran Therborn (University of Cambridge), and the discussions during the event paved the way for future cooperation between the various institutes.
ALEKSIANteri Institute is the Place to Be, Say Visiting Fellows

Minna Hakkarainen

The Aleksanteri Institute is perhaps best known internationally for hosting the annual Aleksanteri Conferences. The event brings Dr. Magda Leichtova back to Helsinki from the Czech Republic, only a month after the end of her intensive research period at the Aleksanteri Institute. Magda is one of 14 successful applicants for the Visiting Fellows Programme for the academic year 2015–2016. She reveals that she had applied for the fellowship in the previous year as she wanted to go abroad for a short while, but did not succeed because of the strong competition. This year, however, her research proposal was among the 14 successful ones out of almost 180 applications received by the Institute from all over the world. During her stay at the Institute, Magda also had a chance to get to know other Visiting Fellows, including Visiting Fellows alumni Dr. Daniela Steila from Italy and Dr. Jelena Obradovic-Wochnik from the UK.

Daniela’s first contact with the Institute was via a conference organised here by Prof. Vesa Oittinen in 2006. The event led to a book project and became the beginning of Daniela’s several visits to Helsinki. In 2010 she successfully applied for a Visiting Fellowship at the Institute, and still considers her two months’ stay here as “the most fruitful time in my life”. Daniela says that, in her experience, “in Helsinki everything works,” unlike in Russia or Paris, where she has also stayed as a visiting scholar. Her view is shared by others. Jelena points out that even compared to her stay at Harvard University, Helsinki makes a much better overall impression – the Institute is centrally located. Daniela also emphasises the role of “The most amazing Slavonic library” in Helsinki as an important factor for her work. Magda also found the library to be an important resource available in Helsinki. Unlike Daniela, she mainly used the services of the Institute’s own library, located on the ground floor of the Institute.

Like Daniela, Jelena is also ‘an old friend’ of the Aleksanteri Institute. Her first contact with the Institute was established through a conference in 2006 and she won her first Visiting Fellowship two years later. She was soon asked to teach short courses at the Institute. This year, Jelena had a one-month fellowship, after which she stayed for one more week as an Erasmus exchange teacher giving an intensive course on Contemporary Balkans. She says that her reason for applying for the fellowship again was the great atmosphere at the Institute. She is particularly inspired by the research community at the Institute which conducts a great deal of empirical research and provided her with plenty of questions that helped her to improve her work. Magda also points out that she received valuable feedback on her work from researchers working on Russia - something that is lacking at her home institute.

Talking to Magda, Daniela and Jelena, it becomes evident that they have all truly enjoyed their stay at the Aleksanteri Institute. But in addition to their praise of the Institute and the Fellowship programme it offers, they all seem to be in love with Helsinki. Daniela has enjoyed concerts in Helsinki’s new concert hall and long walks in the city centre parks. Magda points out that coming from a country with no big lakes or sea, she has especially appreciated the possibility to run by the seashore right in the centre of the city. Jelena agrees that Helsinki is an ideal place to be and to work: “It is a very relaxed place where education is still valued!”

VISITING FELLOWS - AUTUMN 2015

Elena Denisova-Schmidt, University of St. Gallen “Remedying Corruption in Russian Higher Education” (August – September 2015)

Magdalena Leichtova, University of West Bohemia in Plzen “Defining Russia through Ukraine” (August – September 2015)


Gertjan Plets, Stanford University “Post-Soviet Heritages in the Making: Archaeology, culture and statecraft in Russia’s resource colonies” (24 October 2015-mid-January 2016)

Akmal Sokhobiv, Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg “The International Counter Narcotics Policy of Russia After 2014 and the Western Sanctions against Russia” (September-October 2015)

Daniela Steila, University of Turin “Individual Subjectivity and the Collective in Russian Thought (XIX-XX Centuries)” (September 2015)

Anna Tarasenko, National Research University Higher School of Economics (St. Petersburg), “Regional Variations of Withdrawal from Welfare Provision in Russia: Why Interest Groups Matter” (August-September 2015)
Marina Khmelnitskaya joined the Aleksanteri Institute in September 2015. Her work has been on public policy-making under the conditions of a hybrid political system. During her two-and-a-half-year post-doctoral project at the Institute she will investigate the use of government tools in the context of the Russian modernisation agenda. Her previous research examined the paradigmatic transformation of the policy process in Russia using the example of the housing sphere. The monograph The Policy-Making Process and Social Learning in Russia: The Case of Housing Policy resulting from this research was published by Palgrave Macmillan this September.

In a relevant and cutting-edge analysis, this book examines policy-making in Russia as a process of social learning, using the case of housing policy. Centring its study around three explanatory variables – actors, institutions and ideas – it argues that Russia's hybrid institutional environment reduces competition in policy ideas, both at the stage of policy elaboration by the community of state and non-state policy experts and also at the stage of policy adoption by parliament. Consequently, policies only partially satisfy key societal needs, and require frequent revisions of the paradigmatic basis of the policy. The book also highlights the importance of gradual institutional evolution as a mode of policy development that produces a fundamental transformation of policy over time and changes in government which can result in an abrupt shift in policies.


NEW BOOK ON POLICY-MAKING IN RUSSIA

The series is published online at www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/news/newsletter html?searchall=aleksanteri-instituutti

For the complete list of publications, see research database TUHAT https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/publications/searchall.

EDITORIAL

The Aleksanteri Institute

Finnish Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies

The Aleksanteri Institute is affiliated with the University of Helsinki and operates as a national centre of research, study and expertise pertaining to Russia and Eastern Europe, particularly in the social sciences and humanities. The institute co-ordinates and promotes co-operation and interaction between the academic world, public administration, business life and civil society in Finland and abroad.

The institute was founded in 1996. It has grown rapidly into a working community of around 50 people, including doctoral students in the Institute's Graduate Programme. The institute hosts the Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies - Choices of Russian Modernisation and a Finland Distinguished Professor project. The Institute has an Executive Board that represents the University of Helsinki and other interest groups. The Institute also has an Advisory Board.

ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE

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