NEW PUBLICATIONS ARE OUT!
At the Institute various new interesting publications have come out. These include the latest titles in our new book series with Routledge “Studies in Contemporary Russia”, specifically Authoritarian Modernisation: Ideas, Institutions, and Policies edited by Vladimir Gel’man; Philosophical and Cultural Interpretations of Russian Modernisation edited by Katja Lehtisaari and Arto Mustajoki; The Other Russia: Local experience and societal change by Leo Granberg and Ann-Mari Sätre and Paganism, Traditionalism, Nationalism: Narratives of Russian Rodnoverie by Karinna Aitamurto. Read more about these and other publications on pages 12-13.

WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE!
This special conference issue contains the programme of the 16th Annual Aleksanteri Conference “Life and Death in Russia” on pages 4-9. Keynote speakers and pre-conference roundtable speakers are introduced on pages 10-11.

Last minute changes to the programme will be updated on the conference website at www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/conference2016 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.
“Studying the Russian policy-making process is an important and developing topic of research. The increased role of the state in all aspects of the social and political life in the country has generated greater interest in the issues of decision-making and policy elaboration,” says Dr Marina Khmelnitskaya. According to her, policy-making is well examined in democratic societies. Russia, however, is a hybrid state: it has both democratic and authoritarian elements. We still do not know enough about how the policy process functions in states of this kind.

Marina Khmelnitskaya is Post-Doctoral researcher of the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies. She is specializing in the policy-making process and housing policy in Russia. The choice of housing policy as a case study for her research seemed almost accidental. “When writing my doctoral thesis I had to choose where to specialize and picked up housing as one among many options, and mainly because of the availability of data sources, crucial for conducting doctoral research,” she says. Later on, the choice has turned out beneficial and Dr Khmelnitskaya has produced innovative, theoretically-informed, and detailed historical analysis of the policy-making process in Russia, set within the context of housing.

Marina Khmelnitskaya is also one of the driving forces behind this year’s Aleksanteri Conference in the role of Conference Coordinator in the organizing committee. In addition to this task, Dr Khmelnitskaya is going to present a paper discussing the government instruments or “tools” that have been used in the process of housing development in Russia. She is also involved as a discussant in a number of other panels related to the topic of policy-making. Although the conference theme is social welfare and policy in Russia, it’s important not to forget the policy-making process since it defines to what degree the government is able to affect social issues.

Dr Khmelnitskaya explains, “Although the Russian president is often seen as a strong, authoritarian leader, there are important institutional and historical dynamics involved in the policy-making, particularly when we speak of complicated, technical areas of policy. In addition, policy-making processes in Russia are defined by weak formal institutions but strong personal relations amongst diverse policy actors. Such interpersonal ties structure the way policy ideas circulate within the policy-making community and then get adopted into policy.”

Since Dr Khmelnitskaya has examined the policy-making process especially related to housing, she explains that housing is a good example of an issue area that requires bringing together different actors and levels of government to achieve specific policy aims. This field involves the interests of ordinary citizens, construction and maintenance companies, banks, as well as regional and municipal authorities. “Dealing with this complex policy area requires compromises to be reached, bringing together different interests. This is a complicated process for any government but it is particularly difficult in Russia,” Khmelnitskaya comments. But she feels it is still worth trying. “In the end, housing is about human capital and the quality of life – both topical concepts in Russia at the moment. Improving people’s housing conditions contributes to improving their quality of life,” says Dr Khmelnitskaya.

**Selected Publications:**


Marina Khmelnitskaya will present her paper Tools of Government for Russian Housing Development in panel 1D and will be discussant for panel 3F Policy Making in the Social Sphere.
Welcome to the 16th Aleksanteri Conference
“Life and Death in Russia”

Dear colleagues and friends,

This year’s conference theme of Russian social policy and welfare is an extremely important as well as timely topic. The Russian welfare state has undergone deep structural transformations from the collapse of the Soviet model to the present. From the drastic deterioration of major social indicators during the transition of the 1990s, to the greater state involvement and an increase in attention and budget fund allocation during the economic growth in the first years of the 2000s, and to the challenging times and spending cuts during the recent crisis-ridden period. The conference seeks answers to the questions concerning the nature of changes to Russian social welfare, the effectiveness of policies put in place by the government, their specific effects for distinct areas of social policy, for different Russian regions and citizens’ groups and communities.

The distinguished keynote speakers address the inequalities and welfare challenges in contemporary Russian society. The conference features over 40 panels devoted to different aspects of Russian welfare. In addition to the discussions on the Russian welfare regime, the papers examine questions concerning health care, pensions, education, family and housing policy, among many other topics.

The pre-conference roundtable deals with the highly topical issue of migration and the labour market in an international perspective. It asks, for instance, whether the current crises-ridden situation could be a new beginning? Is there hope for new ideas and new forms of dialogue to emerge among the transnational labour market stakeholders and other social actors?

The participants are cordially invited to also attend an innovative artistic performance directed by Susanna Hast and a screening of an award-winning documentary “In Search of a Lost Paradise”.

The Conference “Life and Death in Russia” is organized by the Welfare Cluster of the Academy of Finland-funded Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies “Choices of Russian Modernisation”.

Welcome to the 16th Aleksanteri Conference “Life and Death in Russia”. We hope that you enjoy the debates!

Sincerely yours,
The organizers
16th Annual Aleksanteri Conference

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

All the sessions are held in the Main Building of the University of Helsinki, Fabianinkatu 33

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

09:00-17:30 Registration and information desk open
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor

10:00-12:00 Pre-conference Roundtable on Labour and Migration
Moderator: Rolle Alho (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Participants:
Eli Heikkilä (Migration Institute of Finland): Integration of Immigrants in the Finnish Labour Market – Still Efforts to be Done
Anna-Liisa Heusala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Migrant Workers in the Shadow Economy – the Russian Experience
Eve Kyntäjä (SAK, Finland): Labour Migration in the European Union – Challenges and Opportunities
Kari Tapiola (ILO): No Labour Market without Migration
Charlie Walker (University of Southampton, UK): Paying for Putinism: Workers’ Precarity in the Current Crisis

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13:00-13:30 Opening Ceremony
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Chair and opening words: Markku Kivinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki)
Ceremonial speaker: Esko Aho, East Office of Finnish Industries

13:30-15:00 Plenary Session I
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Chair: Markku Kivinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Keynote speakers:
Professor Göran Therborn (University of Cambridge, UK): Life, Death and Welfare. Russia in Context
Professor Judith Pallot (University of Oxford, UK): The Role of the Russian Penal System in Reproducing Social and Geographical Marginalisation

15:00-15:30 Coffee
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor

15:30-17:00 Panel session I / Panels 1A-V1E

1A: Young People’s Mundane (Every Day) Mobilizations, Solidarities, and Expressions in Public Space in Russia
Venue: Hall 12, 3rd floor
Chair: Päivi Honkatukia (University of Tampere, Finland)
Discussant: Oksana Zaporozhets (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Yana Krupets, Margarita Kuleva & Nadezhda Vasilieva (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg): "The Street Is My Gallery": Invisible Mobilities And Public Traces of Young Sticker-Artists in Saint Petersburg
Heta Mulari (Finnish Youth Research Society) & Arseniy Svinarenko (University of Tampere, Finland): Multisensory belonging: Young people claiming their space and expressing their belonging in Helsinki and Saint Petersburg

1B: Partnerships in Welfare Provision – Growing Freedom of Choice or Growing Differences in Well-Being?
Venue: Hall 8, 3rd floor
Chair: Nina Ivashinenko (Lobachevskii State University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia)
Discussant: Ann-Mari Säître (Uppsala Center for Russian Studies, University of Uppsala, Sweden)
Alexander Soldatkin (Lobachevskii State University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia) & Maija Jäppinen (University of Helsinki, Finland): Foster Care Actors’ Attitudes and Resources
Jouko Nikula (Aleksanteri institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) & Nina Ivashinenko (Lobachevskii State University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia): Social Partnership Between the State, and NGOs in Child Welfare
Leo Granberg (Uppsala Center for Russian Studies, University of Uppsala, Sweden): Moral Economy as Explanation to Partnership Relations in Local Development

1C: Birth and Death in Soviet Union: the State Regulations
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Larisa Shpakovskaya (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Discussant: Anna Temkina (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia)

Alexandra Pletneva (Vinogradov Russian Language Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences): The Birth of an Ideal Soviet Citizen
Alexander Kravetskii (Vinogradov Russian Language Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences): The Funeral of an Ideal Soviet Citizen
Alexei Shmelev (Moscow State Pedagogical Institute, Russia) & Elena Shmeleva (Vinogradov Russian Language Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences): Russian Canned Jokes about Birth and Death

1D: Russian Housing: Policy and Politics
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Andrey Starodubtsev (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Martti Luajanen

Marina Khmelnitskaya (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Tools of Government for Russian Housing Development
Jorn Holm-Hansen (Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research): Housing and Utilities Protests - The Interrelation Between Reform and Political Stability
Yulia Gradskova (Södertörn University, Sweden): House Is the “Place of Woman’s Strength”? Gendering Housing in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia

1E: Migration: Effects and Attitudes
Venue: Hall 10, 3rd floor
Chair: Anna-Liisa Heusala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Rustam Urinboyev (University of Land, Sweden)
Andrian Vlakhov (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): When Wars Go North: Refugee Crisis in the Russian Arctic
Kaarina Aitamurto (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Islam and Integration of Migrants
Akmal Sokhlov (Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg, Germany): The Role of Migration from Central Asia in the Drug-Related Crime in Russia
Susanna Hast is scholar and artist. In her performance, she combines both these sides and introduces to the audience an art-based way to approach science. The performance invites you to listen and experience her songs on the war in Chechnya with a live band.

2A: In Musical Dialogue with War, Embodiment and Chechnya
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Susanna Hast (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

2B: Municipal Social Regimes and Inequalities of Life in the Russian Megapolis
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Svetlana Tulaeva (Lapland University, Finland)
Discussant: Pekka Kettunen (Åbo Akademi University, Finland)
Yuri Medvedev & Inessa Tarusina (Russian Academy of National Economics and Public Administration in Saint Petersburg); The Electoral Systems at Municipal Level in Saint-Petersburg and Its Effects on Social Groups Representation
Inessa Tarusina & Tatiana Barandova (Russian Academy of National Economics and Public Administration in Saint Petersburg); Megapolising Province and Provincial Megapolis: Daily Life Under Municipal Authority (Cases of St.Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast' Comparisons)

Tatiana Baranovna (Russian Academy of National Economics and Public Administration in Saint Petersburg and National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia) & Ekaterina Schipina (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia): How is the Life in the Cultural City? Jentification, Social Infrastructure and Gender
Valentina Pyatkute (Russian Academy of National Economics and Public Administration in Saint Petersburg): Web-Communications on Municipal Level: Any Chances to Hear the Peoples’ Voice?

Venue: Hall 8, 3rd floor
Chair: Olga Sergeyeva (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Saint Petersburg State University, Russia)

Anna Tsareva & Oleg Gorb (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Social Theory of Computer-Games as Basis for the New Social Policy
Regulating Family Game Experience
Ekaterina Orëkh (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia) & Aleksei Blokhin (Lund University, Sweden): “To Prohibit or Permit”: Socialization Models and Children’s Computer Gaming Experience in Today’s Russia

Olga Kononova (ITMO University, Russia) & Tatjana Philippova (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Children and Parents in Focus of Current Legislation on Internet Issues

Olga Sergeyeva (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Children Game Practices and Parent Control: Some Empirical Findings (Saint Petersburg-2016)

2D: Long Term Care about Elderly People in Contemporary Russia: Institutional vs Non institutional
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Anna Avdeeva (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Elena Zdravomyslova (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia)
Nataliia Sherstneva (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): Personal Choices of Elderly People in Favor of Institutional Long-Term Care in the Context of Biographical Satiation
Oksana Sinyavskaya & Anna Ermonina: (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): The Demand on Long-Term Care in Russia in the Context of New Federal Law on Social Service

Elena Bogdanova (Centre for Independent Social Research, Russia and University of Eastern Finland): Aging in the Russian Province: Community Care and Shortage of Infrastructure

2E: Federalism and Territorial Dimension of Russian Politics
Venue: Hall 10, 3rd floor
Chair: Mark Teramae (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Andrey Shecherbak (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Andrey Yushkov, Nina Oding & Lev Savulkin (Leontief Centre, Saint Petersburg, Russia): Life and Death of Russian Federalism
Tatiana Tkacheva (European University at St. Petersburg, Russia): Electoral Loyalty During Federal Elections: Specifics of Republics within the Russian Federation

Andrey Starodubtsev (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Intergovernmental Relations, Political Uncertainty and Social Development of the Russian Regions: the Case of the Russian Federation
Konstantin Zamyatin (University of Helsinki, Finland): Power Sharing or Ethnic Domination? Methods of Diversity Management in the Republics of Post-Soviet Russia

19:00-21:00 Reception hosted by the Rector of the University of Helsinki (by invitation only)
Venue: Teacher’s Lounge, 2nd floor

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER

09:30-16:30 Registration and information desk open
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
10:00-11:30 Panel session III / Panels 3A-3G

3A: Welfare State Reform in Russia: the Role of NGOs
Venue: Hall 13, 3rd floor
Chair: Anna-Maria Salmi (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Michael Rassell (School of Health & Social Care, University of Lincoln, UK)

Eleanor Bindman (Queen Mary, University of London, UK): Welfare Governance, NGOs and Policy Entrepreneurship in Contemporary Russia
Anna Tarasenko (National Research University Higher School of Economics and European University Saint Petersburg, Russia): Contracting out Services to Non-Profits: Analysis of Social Policy Reforms in Russian Regions

Ulla Pape (Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands): What Role for Non-Profit Organisations? Russian Health NGOs Between Program Implementation and Advocacy

Saniya Boyarkina (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences): A Volunteer Labor and Invalid’s Social Capital

3B: Precare Work, Precare Biographies – in Search for Russian Welfare
Venue: Hall 15, 4th floor
Chair: Simo Mannila (National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland)
Discussant: Jouko Nikula (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Galina Eremicheva (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences): Precare Working Relations and Social Risks in Russia
Simo Mannila (National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland): Risks and Risk-Taking in Business Entry in Russia – Bordered Borders of Life

Svetlana Ignatova (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences): Instability of Labour Biographies During Russian Transformation
Lilia Zemnukhova (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences): New Markets, New Professions – ICT Sphere Coping With Crisis
3C: Students, Nationalism, and Ideology in the Post-Stalinist Soviet and East European Societies
Venue: Hall 8, 3rd floor
Chair: Larisa Kangaspuro (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Jeremy Smith (University of Eastern Finland)

Miwako Okabe-Suzuki (University of Helsinki, Finland): Students and Opposition in the GDR in 1956/57: the case of Karl-Marx-University Leipzig
Ira Jänis-Isoangas (University of Helsinki, Finland): Youth, Komsomol, Education and the Question of De-Stalinization in Georgia
Rosario Napolitano (University l'Orienteale, Naples, Italy): The Soviet Censorship Policy in the Baltic States: From Stalin to Kruschev
Takehiro Okabe (University of Helsinki, Finland): All Quiet on the Northwest Borderland?: Finno-Ugric Intellectuals and Students in the Karelo-Finnish Republic before and after the Secret Speech in 1956

3D: Church and Local Community
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Kaarina Altamurto (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Maija Penttilä (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Kirill Alekseein (Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox University, Moscow, Russia): Father’s Families: Spiritual Guides and its Succession in Russian Parishes
Maria Ukhvatova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia): Religion and the Russian Voters on the 2011 and 2012 Federal Elections
Elena Stepanova (Institute of Philosophy and Law, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences): Protestant Churches’ Contribution to Healthy Living in Russia
Tatiana Kritkova (Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox University, Moscow, Russia): Time-Budget of Modern Russian Orthodox Priest

3E: Health and Socio-Economic Environment
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Yulia Skokova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia)
Discussant: Vladimir Kozlov (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)

Angelina Mylnikova (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): The Possible Impact of Social Capital on Health
Olga Popova (Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOES), Regensburg & CERGE-EI, Czech Republic), Vladimir Otrachshenko (Nova School of Business and Economics and Ural Federal University, Russia) & Pavel Solomin (Nova School of Business and Economics, Russia): Health Consequences of Weather Change: Evidence from the Russian Regional Panel Data
Pavitra Paul & Hanna Valtonen (University of Eastern Finland): The Evolution Russian Health Gradient in Post-Soviet Era – An Examination of Socioeconomic Strata Related Health Inequalities from 1994 to 2013

11:30-12:00 Coffee break
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor

12:00-13:30 Plenary session II
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Chair: Meri Kulmala, (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Keynote speakers:
Professor Natalia Zubarevich (Moscow State University, Russia): Regional and Social Aspects of the Russia’s Crisis
Professor Thomas Remington (Emory University, USA): Russian Economic Inequality in Comparative Perspective

Julia Zelikova (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, St. Petersburg): Successful Aging in Contemporary Russia

3F: Policy Making in the Social Sphere
Venue: Hall 10, 3rd floor
Chair: Vladimir Gel’man (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Marina Khmelnitskaya (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Alisa Trcirinikulova (University of Tampere, Finland): Learning to Cooperate: Integration of Public-Private Partnership Model into Pension System in Russia
Gulnara Minnigaleeva (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Ageing Policies and the Role of Civil Society in Russia

Brittany Holom (Princeton University, USA): Framing Health and State Responsibility: Healthcare Reforms and the Critical 1990s in Post-Soviet Russia
Julien Buffet (Université Paris 10, France): The Reassessment of Russian Welfare State: A Case Study for Pension Reforms under Vladimir Putin

3G: Borders and Cooperation
Venue: Hall 12, 3rd floor
Chair: Katalin Miklossy (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Sari Autio-Sarasma (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Alessandro Vitale (University of Milan, Italy): East-West Divide, Border Effects and their Consequences for Contemporary Russian Society
Saskia Geisler (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany): Finnish Construction Projects in the Soviet Union. The Example of Kostamus


13:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Panel session IV / Panels 4A-4H

4A: Artefacts of Death: Every-day Lives of Dead Bodies in Modern Russia
Venue: Hall 8, 3rd floor
Chair: Regula Zwahlen Guth (University of Freiburg, Switzerland)
Discussant: Julia Lerner (Helsinki College for Advanced Studies, Finland and Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)

Anna Sokolova (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences): Substitutes in Lack of Institutes: Grassroots Memorialization in Russian Social and Political Context
Ekaterina Melnikova (Museum of Ethnography and Anthropology Kunstkamera, European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): ‘Do-It-Yourself’ Memory: Local Practices of Commemorating the Unburied Soldiers in Modern Russia
Jeanne Kormina (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia): The Unrest Life of Romansov’s Remains Between Science and Religion

4B: Childbirth in Russia: Repertoire of New Opportunities and Challenges
Venue: Hall 15, 4th floor
Chair: Anna Klimova (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Yulia Gradskaia (Södertörn University, Sweden)
Anna Temkina (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): Moral Economy of Child Birth
Anastasiya Novkunskaya (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): “Routing Life and Death in Russia”: Geographical And Institutional Delegation of Difficult Cases in Childbirth
Ekaterina Borozdina (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): Independent Midwifery Practice in Russia: Repertoire of Opportunities

4C: The Neglected Health Crisis: HIV/AIDS in Russia
Venue: Hall 13, 3rd floor
Chair: Elena Bogdanova (Centre for Independent Social Research, Russia and University of Eastern Finland)
Discussant: Linda J. Cook (Brown University, USA)
Aadne Aasland (Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR), Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway) & Anastasiya Moyalys (Centre for Independent Social Research, St. Petersburg, Russia): HIV Prevention Among Drug Users: Adjusting the Scope of Interaction Between the State and Civil Society
Yulia Skokova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia) & Ulla Pape (Radboud University Nijmegen,
Evdokia Romanova (Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights): The Relevance of Stigma and Self-Stigma in the Lives of PLWH And Community Intervention Models for Self-Stigma Eradication

4D: Factors for High Mortality in Russia: a Regional Dimension
Venue: Hall 12, 3rd floor
Chair: Anna Nemirovskaya (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Discussant: Simo Mannila (National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland)

Anna Nemirovskaya & Vladimir Kozlov (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Alcohol Consumption as Factor for High Mortality in Russia

Vladimir Kozlov, Dina Balalava (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia) & Alexander Libman (German Institute for International and Security Affairs SWP): Democracy, Income and Health: Evidence from Russian Regions

Daria Kolesnikova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia) & Tatiyana Karabchuk (United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain): Estimation of Socio-economic National Losses as a Result of Road Accidents in Russia

Sergey Timonin (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia), Vladimir M. Shkolnikov (MPIDR, Germany & New Economic School, Russia) & Evgeny Andreev (New Economic School, Russia): Health Inequalities in Russia: Evidence From a Small Area Mortality Analysis

4E: Existence, Identity and Technology
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Sanna Turoma (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Jane Harris (University of Pittsburgh, USA)

Kira Onipko (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Presence of Obituary in Social Order of Small Town: Gender Roles and Social Positions

Miglena Dikova-Milanov (University of Gent, Belgium): Death as a Transformation: on Mikhail Bulgakov’s ‘Heart of a Dog’ and ‘The Master and Margarita’

Maija Kõnõnen (University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu): “The Living Dead” Among Us: Cultural Narratives of Dementia and Aging in Russian Contemporary Literature

Tatiana Novikova (Saint Petersburg State Pedagogical Medical University, Russia): The Meaning and the Cultural Reception of Unborn in Russia

4F: Labour Market (Un)Equity
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Irina Olimpieva (Centre for Independent Social Research, Russia)
Discussant: Judith Pallot (University of Oxford, UK)

Natalia Soboleva (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Work Values and Job Preferences in Europe: Gender Aspect

Elena Kapustkina (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia) & Olga Nikiforova (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Dynamics of Working Life in Contemporary Russia

Larisa Ilyina (Samara State Technical University, Russia): The Analysis of the Women’s Activity and the Formation of the Image of the Modern Woman in Russia

4G: Social Policy and Media
Venue: Hall 14, 4th floor
Chair: Tapani Kaakkuriniemi (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Dmitriy Yagodin (University of Tampere, Finland)

Cecilia von Feilitzen & Peter Petrov (Södertörn University, Sweden): Poverty and Material Gaps in the News

Svetlana Russkikh (Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) and University Paris Descartes (Cerlis), France): The Impact of Mass Media in the Pro-Natalist Policy in Russia since 2007

Natalia Kim (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Childbirth in Russia: Representation of Family Policy in Russian Mass Media

Anastasia A. Maksim (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Social Mood in the Region and its Reflection in Mass Media

4H: Health, Sexuality and Stigma
Venue: Hall 10, 3rd floor
Chair: Andrey Starodubtsev (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Cai Weaver (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Veronika Lapina (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia): Politics of Mourning and Calls for Queer Visibility in Russia

Victoria Dudina, Daria Judina (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia) & Elizabeth King (University of Michigan, USA): Fears about Antiretroviral Therapy among People Living with HIV/AIDS in Russia (analysis of the internet discussion forum)

Saniya Boyarkina, Natalya Kolesnik (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences) & Grigory Boyarkin (North-Western State Medical University named after I.I.Mechnikov, Russia): Tuberculosis in Russia: who is to blame and what to do?

5A: Film Screening “In Search of a Lost Paradise” by Evgeny Tsymbal and Alexander Smoliansky
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Chair: Larisa Kangaspuro (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Presentation of the film: Alexander Smoliansky (Integrum World Wide)
Read more about the film on page 14.

5B: Roundtable discussion on Finnish and Russian Innovation Environments in Comparison – Platform for Networking?
Venue: Hall 13, 3rd floor
Chair: Riitta Kosonen (Center for Markets in Transition, Aalto University School of Business, Finland)

Keynote presentation: Natalia Ivanova (Institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russian Academy of Sciences): Russian Innovation Environment - Prospects for Development

Roundtable speakers:
Irina Dezhina (Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, Russia)
Irina Olimpieva (Centre for Independent Social Research, St.Petersburg, Russia)
Mia Kautionen (University of Tampere, Finland)
Jan-Erik Nyrovaara (Helsinki Ventures, Finland)
Sari Federley (TEKES, Finland)
Pekka Makkonen (Flexbright Ltd, Finland)
Jari Saarinen (GIM Ltd, Finland)

5C: Labour Practices in Everyday and Institutional Contexts
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Galina Eremicheva (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
Discussant: Jouko Nikula (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Elena Evdokimova (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences): Work-Life Balance and Imbalance of Saint Petersburg Citizens in Transforming Russia

Elena Tykanova (Sociological Institute, Russian Academy of Science and Saint Petersburg State University, Russia) & Anisya Khokhlova (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): The Influence of Employment to the Possibilities of Residential Mobility in Post-Soviet Saint Petersburg

5D: How Does Ethnicity and Environment Influence Fertility Patterns. Evidence from the Russians Living Abroad and Ethnic Groups Inside Russia
Venue: Hall 10, 3rd floor
Chair: Vladimir Kozlov (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)
Leen Rahnu, Luule Sakkeus (Estonian Institute for Population Studies, Tallinn University) & Al-
**FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER**

18:30-20:00 Reception hosted by the City of Helsinki (by invitation only)
Venue: City Hall, Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13

**5E: Russian Welfare Reforms, Mobilization and Political Stability**
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Maria Trofimova (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia)
Discussant: Ulla Pepe (Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands)


Daria Prizyazhnuyk (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia) & Jorn Holm-Hansen (Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research NIBR-HiOA): Mass Media Representation of Welfare Reforms of Old-Age Pensions, Housing and Primary Education


**6A: Education: Reform and Practices**
Venue: Hall 8, 3rd floor
Chair: Mila Oiva (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Andrey Starodubtsev (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Petia Mankova (UUT The Arctic University of Norway): 'A safe Harbor in Stormy Winds': A Village School Amidst the Educational Reforms in Russia

Maria Michela D’Alessandro (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): Back to 1890: The Single-Sex Village School Amidst the Educational Reforms in Russia

Natalia Iakovleva (S. Witte Institute of New Industrial Development, Russian Academy of Sciences): Education in Russia: Post-Soviet Development

**6B: Classes and Well-Being in Modern Russia**
Venue: Hall 12, 3rd floor
Chair: Jouko Nikula (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Markku Kivinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Mikhail Chernysh (Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences): Trends of Social Mobility in Russia

Yulia Epikhina (Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences): Precariat in the Social Structure - Not Working And Not Middle Class?

Mikhail Voeykov (Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Sciences): Political Economy of Economic Inequality and the Welfare State: Theory and Russian Case

**5F: Demography in Russian Regions**
Venue: Hall 8, 3rd floor
Chair: Jouni Järvinen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Anna Nemirovskaya (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)

Stephanie Hitztaler (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): An Integrated Look at Demographic Change and Human Welfare in Central Kamchatka in the 1990s and beyond

Gaiane Safarova, Anna Safarova & Nina Kosolapenko (Saint Petersburg Institute for Economics and Mathematics, Russian Academy of Sciences): Ageing Russian Megalopolis (the case of Saint-Petersburg)

Maria Semenova (Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, University of Eastern Finland): Health and Social Care Services in Two Karelias

**6C: Deinstitutionalization of Child Welfare in Russia**
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Meri Kulmala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Tarja Pösö (University of Tampere, Finland)

Olga Ulybina (University of Cambridge, UK): Child Care Deinstitutionalization in Russia in the Context of Global Policy Diffusion

Zhanna Chernova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia), Meri Kulmala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) & Michael Rasel (University of Lincoln, UK): Overhauling Russia’s Child Welfare System: Ideas, Institutions and Agents of Policy Change

Anna Klepikova (University of Saint Petersburg, Russia): Life and Death Within the State Institutions for People with Disabilities in Russia: Transforming the System from Within

Larisa Shpakovskaya (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Cultural Discourses of Foster Parenting and Child Welfare Reform in Contemporary Russia

**6D: The Individual and the State in Russia: Coping Strategies and Civil Society**
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Geir Honneland (Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway)
Discussant: Anna Tarasenko (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)

Ilkka Pietilä (University of Tampere, Finland): Informal Practices in Navigating Russian Health Care

Pål W. Skedsmo (Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway) & Dmitry Goncharov (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Towards a Depoliticization of Russian Civil Society? From NGOs to New Social Movements

Anne-Kristin Jørgensen (Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway): Russians’ Perceptions of the Bureaucracy and Civil Servants

**6E: Economic Resources and Welfare**
Venue: Hall 15, 4th floor
Chair: Sari Autio-Sarasa (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Anna Lowry (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Andrey Zaostrrovtsen (European University in Saint Petersburg, Russia): Melting Russian Welfare: Joint Effect of Oil Prices and Counter-Sanctions

Sergey Bodrunov (S. Witte Institute of New Political Economy, Saint Petersburg, Russia): Food Policy and Democracy in Russia: Improvement in Diet in Social and Political Perspectives
Panel session VII / Panels 7A-7F

7A: Gender, Violence and Equality
Venue: Hall 7, 3rd floor
Chair: Veronika Lapina (European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia)
Discussant: Maija Jäppinen (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Marianna Muravyeva (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia): Violence Against Parents in a Transforming Society: Russian Family in Crisis?
Judith Pallot (University of Oxford, UK): The Role of Penalty in Constructing Women’s Identities in Post-Soviet Russia
Carol Nekhemias (Penn State Harrisburg, USA): The Putin Era and Gender Equality: A Patriarchal Renaissance?

7B: Human Rights, Social Rights and State Administration
Venue: Hall 12, 3rd floor
Chair: Brendan Humphreys (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Eleanor Bindman (Queen Mary, University of London, UK)

Tatiana Baranovskaja, Alexandra Kozlova & Daria Muratova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia): Rights to Live or to Die? Bio-political Issues in Reflections of Regional Commissioners for Human Rights in Contemporary Russia
Elina Marslovskaja (Sociological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences): The Peculiarities of Interaction of Russian Human Rights NGOs with Legal Institutions
Anne-Mari Säätö (Uppsala University, Sweden): Dealing with Poverty in Russia—a Female Responsibility
Jane Harris (University of Pittsburgh, USA): Reimagining Russia’s Social Welfare System in the Age of the Internet: The Madrid Plan, the GNNO Dobroe Delo, and the Rights of the Elderly

7C: How Paradoxical is Social Policy in Russia: Goals versus Outcomes
Venue: Hall 10, 3rd floor
Chair: Tatiana Chubarova (Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia)
Discussant: Veronika Duprat-Kushtanina (University Lille3/CeRIES (France)) & Svetlana Lutoshkina (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia): Life-Course Without Children, Gender Roles, and Work-Life Balance: On Shortcomings of a Pro-Natality Policy
Natalia Grigorieva (School of Public Administration, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia) & Tatiana Chubarova (Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences): Access to Health Care in Russia: a Roadmap from Right to Reality
Alexey Sedlov (Institute of Economy, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow): Selected Immigration in the Context of Social Policy in Russia
Andrey Andryushkov (University of Mechanical Engineering, Moscow, Russia): Expected and Unexpected Results of Educational Reform in Russia: Investments and Return on Children Early Vocational Orientation

7D: Adoption and Foster Care in Russia
Venue: Hall 6, 3rd floor
Chair: Meri Kulmala (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Discussant: Zhanna Chernova (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia)
Alla Varyzgina (Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod, Russia): Everyday Functioning of a Foster Family
Anna Klimova (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland): Representation of Adoption and Foster Care in Russian Mass Media (2013-2016)
Vera Galindabeva (Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science, St. Petersburg): Open Adoption in Post-Soviet Buryatia: Public Encouragement vs. Private Stigmatization

7F: Authoritarian Modernization in Russia: Ideas, Institutions, and Policies
Venue: Hall 13, 3rd floor
Chair: Vladimir Gel’man (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) & Elina Viljanen (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

Markku Kangaspuro (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Andrey Starodubtsev (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)

13:30-15:00 Lunch break

15:00 -16:30 Plenary session III
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Chair: Marina Khmelinskaya, (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland)
Keynote speakers: Professor Linda J. Cook (Brown University, USA): Labour Migrants’ Access to Social Services in Russia
Dr Svetlana Stephenson (London Metropolitan University, UK): Joining the Old Guard: Young People and Patronial Networks in Russia

16:30-17:15 Closing Ceremony
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
Professor Pekka Puska
Professor Markku Kivinen

17:15-18:00 Closing Drinks Reception and Book Launch by the Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies of the Aleksanteri Institute
Venue: Small Hall, 4th floor
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS OF 2016 ALEKSANTERI CONFERENCE

LINDA J. COOK

Linda J. Cook received her PhD from Columbia University in 1985. She is currently a professor in the political science and Slavic studies departments at Brown University, and an associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. Linda Cook is a prominent expert on the politics and structure of welfare in Russia and post-communist Europe. Her earlier work was dedicated to Soviet-era welfare policies. Her subsequent research has traced how welfare state change was initiated and negotiated politically, and how it has been influenced by both domestic politics and international institutions and policy constructs. Professor Cook has also worked on issues of political representation, labour, and non-governmental organizations. Her key publications are The Soviet Social Contract and Why it Failed (Harvard University Press, 1993) and the highly acclaimed Post-communist Welfare States: Reform Politics in Russia and Eastern Europe (Cornell University Press, 2007). Her research has been supported by the Davis Center, the National Council on East European and Eurasian Studies, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and the Fulbright Foundation. She is currently researching the effects of recession on Russia’s welfare state, with a focus on health care.

THOMAS REMINGTON

Thomas Remington holds a PhD in political science from the Yale University. Currently he is Goodrich C. White Professor of Political Science at Emory University. He also holds associate posts at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, and at the International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Russia. He is one of the leading scholars on Russian politics, policy-making, and social policy. Among his recent publications are Presidential Decrees in Russia: A Comparative Perspective (Cambridge University Press, 2014); The Politics of Inequality in Russia (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and The Russian Parliament: Institutional Evolution in a Transitional Regime, 1989-1999 (Yale University Press, 2001). His research focuses on the development of welfare institutions in Russia, and in comparative perspective. Specifically his work has examined the questions of regional inequality, the formation of the middle class, and the Russian labour market. He has also written on the development of political institutions in post-communist states, including parliamentary politics, and legislative-executive relations.

Svetlana Stephenson

Svetlana Stephenson is a reader in Sociology at the London Metropolitan University. She gained her PhD from the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Science. Dr Stephenson has published widely on the issues of social structure in Russia, informality and criminal networks, youth, and inequality. Specifically her research has involved studying urban social organization, violent street groups, disadvantaged social categories, particularly among the young people (homeless, street children, and sex workers), which she has researched in the context of contemporary Russia and also comparatively. Among Dr Stephenson’s recent works are Gangs of Russia: from the Streets to the Corridors of Power (Cornell University Press, 2015), Crossing the Line: Vagrancy, Homelessness and Social Displacement in Russia (Ashgate, 2006) and Youth and Social Change in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (Routledge, 2012) co-authored with Charles Walker.

GÖRAN THERBORN

Göran Therborn is Professor emeritus of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. He is a global scholar working on issues of social inequality, class relations, power structures and social protest, gender and family relations, cities, and well as on Europe, globalization, modernity, and social theory. He received his PhD from Lund University, Sweden, in 1974. Over his academic career, he has taught widely in Europe, Asia, and the Americas and has authored or edited about 35 books and published in 24 languages. He is doctor honoris causa at Helsinki University (and four other universities). His recent works include The Killing Fields of Inequality (Polity Press 2013), The World: A Beginner’s Guide (Polity, 2011), From Marxism to Post-Marxism? (Verso, 2008), Between Sex and Power (Routledge, 2004). His next work, Cities of Power. The Urban, the National, the Popular, and the Global is in press (Verso, March 2017).

NATALIA ZUBAREVICH

Natalia Zubarevich received her doctorate from the Moscow State University. She is a professor at the Department of Geography at Moscow State University and the Director of the Regional Programme at the Independent Institute for Social Policy (Moscow). The area of her expertise is the socio-economic development of regions, regional economy and budget regulation, human geography and urban development in Russia. Her current research is devoted to crisis trends in Russian regions and budget stabilization analysis, as well as trends of Russian cities’ and towns’ social-economic development, including single-company towns. Professor Zubarevich’s recent publications include: Regionny Rossi: Neravenstvo, Krizis, Modernizatsiya (NISP); Indikatory Ustoichivogo Razvitia: Ekonomika, Obshchestvo, Priroda (Maks Press, 2008) with Bobylev, S.N. and Soloveva S.V.; Krynpi Biznes v Regionakh Rossi (Pomatur, 2005); Rossiya Regionov (Pomatur, 2005) and Sotsial′noe Razvitie Regionov Rossi (URSS, 2005). Professor Zubarevich has taken part in a large variety of research projects and consultative bodies to governmental and international organizations, including the UN, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

Judith Pallot

Professor Judith Pallot has been engaged in research and teaching in Russian area studies for four decades. She was appointed to a lecturing post on the geography of the USSR in University of Oxford and Christ Church college in 1979 where she has been ever since, becoming Professor of the Human Geography of Russia in 2008. She is presently President of BASEES (the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies). In the 1970s and 80s she took part in debates about the social history of the Russian peasantry, and after 1991 she worked in collaboration with Tatyana Nefedova on the transformation of the agrarian sector in Russia, focusing on household sector. More recently she has become interested in the historical-geography or the Russian Prison System and its impact on different social groups, with the emphasis on women prisoners, in particular. She has published widely, including books and articles, on her research. Her most recent book (with Elena Katz) is Waiting at the Gate: Women, Identity and the Russian Penal System, I.B. Tauris, November, 2016.

THOMAS REMINGTON

Svetlana Stephenson

Natalia Zubarevich

Göran Therborn

Judith Pallot

Linda J. Cook

Svetlana Stephenson

Natalia Zubarevich

Göran Therborn

Linda J. Cook

Thomas Remington

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Judith Pallot

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Thomas Remington

Svetlana Stephenson

Linda J. Cook

Thomas Remington

Svetlana Stephenson

Natalia Zubarevich

Göran Therborn
ROLLE ALHO

Rolle Alho is a Post-Doctoral researcher at the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki. Alho holds a PhD in social policy from University of Turku and a MSc in sociology from London School of Economics and Political Science. Alho has also worked as a researcher, for example, at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and the Family Federation, Finland. His research interests include employment relations, social security, migration, and ethnic relations – and above all – how these questions are intersected. His PhD thesis (2015) focused on labour market organizations’ immigration strategies. Currently Alho is conducting research on highly-educated migrants’ job search strategies and teaching migration studies at the University of Helsinki.

ELLI HEIKKILÄ

Adjunct Professor, Elli Heikkilä PhD is the Research Director of the Migration Institute of Finland. Her licentiate thesis (1986) and dissertation (1989) have dealt with migration and regional development. Population ageing was the topic of her post-doctoral research (1993). She has taken part in many international projects including migration and labour markets. Heikkilä is the co-editor of the international journal of Migration Letters. She is Adjunct Professor, specialized in population geography, to the University of Oulu, and University of Turku in Finland.

ANNA-LIISA HEUSALA

Anna-Liisa Heusala received her doctoral degree in political science in the University of Helsinki in 2005. She is a Senior Researcher in the Aleksanteri Institute and a fellow in the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in Russia Studies (2012-2017). Her research interests include Russian comprehensive security, public administration, and security policy. She has published in the International Review of Administrative Sciences and Review of Central and East European Law. Her most recent work is Heusala A-L & Aitamurto, K (eds.), Migrant Workers in Russia – Global Challenges of the Shadow Economy in Societal Transformation. Routledge: 2017.

EVE KYNTÄJÄ

Eve Kyntäjä holds a Master’s degree in psychology, and she has worked at the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK) since 2000. As of 2009, she has acted as SAK’s expert on immigration issues. Her responsibilities include labour force mobility, immigration policy, integration policy, and multiculturalism. She represents wage earner organizations in various Finnish and EU organs, such as the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers of the European Commission and the European Territorial Cooperation working group on migration. Kyntäjä is responsible for the immigration policy expert group of SAK and its member labour unions.

Previously, Kyntäjä worked as a researcher at the Institute of Migration (1992–1997), at the Aleksanteri Institute (1997–2000) and in the Department of Social Psychology at the University of Helsinki (2000–2002). Her research topics include immigration policy in various European countries and the integration, identity and social exclusion experiences of immigrants (Estonians, Russians, and Ingrian Finns).

KARI TAPIOLA

Born in Helsinki in 1946, Kari Tapiola started his professional life in 1966 as a journalist, first in the daily Helsingin Sanomat and then in the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation. In 1972 he became International Secretary of the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions SAK. Later he worked at the United Nations in New York and the OECD in Paris, returning to SAK in 1985. He was involved in advising and assisting Soviet and Central European trade unions on transition to a market economy. In 1991 he became a Worker Member of the ILO’s Governing Body, and in 1996 he was appointed Deputy Director-General of the ILO, notably in charge of international labour standards and fundamental rights at work. In this capacity he was deeply involved in developing the ILO’s approach of dealing with serious labour standards problems through advice and technical assistance. During this time particular attention was devoted to Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Colombia, China, Iran, the Gulf States, Georgia, and Belarus. After retiring in 2014 he has continued to work with the ILO on labour rights in a number of countries, such as the elimination of child and forced labour in cotton picking in Uzbekistan.

CHARLIE WALKER

Charlie Walker is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Southampton, and Honorary Member of the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Birmingham. He was previously Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford. His research has explored the production of class, gender, and spatial inequalities in Russia and the former Soviet Union, particularly through young people’s transitions to adulthood. His most recent work addresses sources of and barriers to well-being amongst Russian men employed in blue-collar professions. He is author of Learning to Labour in post-Soviet Russia: Vocational Youth in Transition (Routledge, 2011) and co-edited Innovations in Youth Research (Palgrave, 2012) and Youth and Social Change in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (Routledge, 2012). He is co-editor-in-chief of the BSA journal Sociological Research Online and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Youth Studies. He has published articles in a range of peer-reviewed journals, including Sociology, Europe-Asia Studies, Journal of Youth Studies, International Journal of Human Resource Management, International Journal of Lifelong Education, Journal of Social Policy Studies, Social Alternatives, and Idäntutkimus.

The Aleksanteri Institute, Unioninkatu 33.
Studies in Contemporary Russia (Routledge) is a series of cutting-edge, contemporary studies on modern Russia. Monographs, joint publications and edited volumes will branch out into various disciplines. They combining research methods and theories to approach the core questions of Russian modernisation; how do the dynamics of resources and rules affect the Russian economy and what are the prospects and needs of diversification? What is the impact of the changing state-society relationship? How does the emerging welfare regime work? What is the role of Russia in contemporary international relations? How should we understand the present Russian political system? What is the philosophical background of modernisation as a whole, and its Russian version in particular?

The editor of the series is Markku Kiven, director of the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies “Choices of Russian Modernisation”.

One of the recent publications of these series is *The Other Russia: Local experience and societal change* (Routledge 2017) by Leo Granberg and Ann-Mari Sätre. This book sheds light on the role of local activity in the development of Russian society. The book offers chapters on resource use, local authorities, enterprises, poverty and types of individual action, as well as a final chapter that places local societies within the framework of the politicized Russian economy.

Also Kaarina Aitamurto has published in the series recently. Her book *Paganism, Traditionalism, Nationalism: Narratives of Russian Rodnoverie* (Routledge 2016) addresses the religious movement of contemporary Slavic Paganism. It analyses the adherents’ different conceptualizations of this religion, ranging from nationalistically coloured ideas of a native, Russian religion to representations of Paganism as a nature spirituality that celebrates diversity and non-dogmatism.

See also Leo Granberg and Ann-Mari Sätre in Aleksanteri Conference panel discussion: *1B Partnerships in Welfare Provision – Growing Freedom of Choice or Growing Differences in Well-Being?* on 26 October at 15.30. Kaarina Aitamurto is presenting in panel *1E Migration: Effects and Attitudes* on 26 October at 15.30.

How far is it possible to attribute change in contemporary Russia as being due to cultural factors? How does the process of change in cultural institutions reflect the general development of Russia? Are there certain philosophical ideas that explain the Russian interpretation of a modern society? The contributors of the book *Philosophical and Cultural Interpretations of Russian Modernisation* attempt to answer questions such as these in this edited volume. The volume was written in the context of the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies “Choices of Russian Modernisation”. Writers present wide range of countries coming from Finland, Russia, Norway and France.

The volume elaborates on processes of Russian modernisation regarding a wide range of factors, including the use of modern technology, elements of civil society, a reliable legal system, a high level of education, equality among citizens, freedom of speech, religion and trade. The main focus is on the Putin era but historical backgrounds are also discussed, adding context. The chapters cover a wide spectrum of research fields from philosophy and political ideas to gender issues, language and media, the education system, and the position of music as a constituent of modern identity.

The book: *Authoritarian Modernization in Russia: Ideas, Institutions, and Policies*, edited by FiDiPro Professor Vladimir Gel’mann (Aleksanteri Institute) has been published by Routledge.

“Authoritarian Modernization in Russia is a stimulating analysis of post-Soviet economic, political and policy-making dynamics. An excellent team of Finnish and Russian scholars highlights trajectories of top-down reforms that prioritize economic advances over political liberties. The book offers a thorough examination of challenges and constraints that affected the project of authoritarian modernization in Russia and adds sophistication to the debates on how Russia really works and whether it can modernize,” says Alena Ledeneva, Professor of Politics and Society, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College, London.

The authors will present the book: Authoritarian Modernization in Russia more specifically during the Aleksanteri Conference, on 27 October at 12.00 in panel 7F.


The FiDiPro project “Regimes, Institutions and Change: Politics and Governance in Russia in a Comparative Perspective” led by Professor Vladimir Gel’mann and Academy of Finland-funded Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies “Choices of Russian Modernisation” are also the main sponsors of the Aleksanteri Conference 2016.
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND RUSSIA

The European Union and Russia written by Tuomas Forsberg and Hiski Haukkala analyses the political and institutional development of EU-Russia relations from three perspectives: European studies, Russian studies and International Relations, including Foreign Policy Analysis.

“...We started to write the book, Russia-EU relations witnessed a dramatic rupture and even a collapse of the wider European security order due to the Ukraine crisis. The need to be able to capture why the ‘strategic partnership’ that had been developed for more than 20 years failed so badly was palpable”, writes Tuomas Forsberg, who is Professor of International Politics at the University of Tampere and Deputy Director of the Centre of Excellence “Choices of Russian Modernisation”.

“In particular, we wanted to analyse the entirety of relations and examine both successes and failures and give a historical narrative that would help us understand the present rupture in the relations”, Tuomas Forsberg explains.

Hence the book analyses both the historical stages in the relationship since the end of the Cold War and the key issue-areas: economy, security, home affairs, and culture. It also offers explanations that see the situation as resembling a classical tragic dilemma where neither side wants the outcome they have obtained, but at the same time both have been unable to alter the policies that have contributed to it in the first place.

The book also discusses what the future of Russia-EU relations could look like.


MIGRANT WORKERS IN RUSSIA

Global Challenges of the Shadow in Societal Transformation

The Russian Federation is the second biggest receiver country of migrants in the world after the US. For the first time, this joint volume takes a comprehensive look at the wide array of consequences for societal transformation created by the use of a large-scale migrant workforce in Russia under globalized conditions.

The key question to be answered in the book is: What are some of the main consequences connected to the use of a migrant workforce, often under the conditions of the shadow economy, for the societal transformation of the Russian Federation? In answering this question, the book examines both micro and macro level issues. The goal is to understand the dynamics between current migration policies under globalized conditions and three transformational areas of Russian society – politics, law, and institutions.

The first three chapters by Sergey Abasin, Anna-Liisa Heusala, Markku Kangaspuro and Jussi Lassila discuss dominant transformations in Russian politics. As the chapters demonstrate, questions related to identity and politics of belonging are among significant factors, which influence both domestic and foreign policy goals and the implementation of migrant labour policies. The following four articles by Rustamjon Urinboyev, Yuliya Zabyelina, Kaarina Aitamurto and Linda Cook address transformations in Russian law and institutions. Empirical studies of micro-level strategies of migrants in the shadow economy, such as unofficial work contracts, forced criminality and limited healthcare services, bring new insights into the analysis of legal-institutional developments. In conclusion, the unfortunate consequences of the shadow economy, such as institutional corruption, are discussed.

Presentation of the book will take place in panel 6G in Aleksanteri Conference on 28 October at 10.00.


THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN RUSSIA AND FINLAND’S CHOICES

The report Venäjän kansallisien turvallisuuden kehitystrendit ja Suomen valinnat (The Development of National Security in Russia and Finland’s Choices) by Anna-Liisa Heusala, Emilia Pyykönen and Markku Kivinen builds a comprehensive picture of Russia’s security policy developments and their significance for Finland. The first part of the report consists of a meta-analysis of Finnish peer-reviewed academic research in 2011-2015 pertaining to Russian security policy. Based on the analysis of 461 publications, the report offers recommendations for the development of Russian security policy studies in Finland. The second part of the report looks at key developments in Russia’s defence policy, defence economy, plus internal and foreign policy. Based on a selection of versatile research materials, including two international expert workshops, the report examines Russia’s security policy goals, resources, and ability to carry out its goals. The report provides recommendations concerning Finland’s own security policy choices. The report is published in the Prime Minister’s Office publication series.

Come to have a glass of sparkling wine and hear more about exciting new publications! A book launch with drinks will be held following the closing ceremony at the Lobby of Small Hall, University of Helsinki Main Building, 4th floor, Fabianinkatu 33. The reception is hosted by the Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies and the FIDiPro project of the Aleksanteri Institute.
NEWS

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING AT THE ALEKSANTERI CONFERENCE

Ronja Inkovaara

“In Search of a Lost Paradise” is a documentary film by Evgeny Tsymbal and Alexander Smoliansky about two famous Russian non-conformist artists: Valentina Kropivnitskaya and Oscar Rabin. They were a couple who challenged the Soviet system in the 1960s and embodied the idea of nonconformist art, later called the Second Russian Avant-Garde.

They were kicked out of the Soviet Union and deprived of their citizenships after organizing a prohibited open-air art exhibition, which was destroyed by the KGB. After that, they settled in Paris and continued their artistic work there.

The writer and the producer of the film Alexander Smoliansky says that “The story is about people who lived in accordance with the principle adopted from prison inmates: don’t trust, don’t be afraid, don’t ask. These people never betrayed their artistic principles. They showed how powerful a weapon nonviolent resistance can be. They merely wanted to paint, but became the leaders of an entire generation.”

The film “In Search of a Lost Paradise” will be screened as a part of the Aleksanteri Conference in panel 5A on 27 October at 16.15 in the University Main Building, Small Hall. In Russian with English subtitles.

RESEARCHGUIDE GIVES AN EASY ACCESS TO RELEVANT LIBRARY AND WEB SOURCES

Emilia Pyykönen

ResearchGuide to Russian and Eastern European Studies helps researchers and students to find the most relevant information on library and web sources: books, journals, articles, and electronic resources. While part of the sources are available only in the University of Helsinki network, the guide provides you with a growing collection of open access sources and tips on using them. ResearchGuide to Russian and Eastern European Studies has been compiled by the Helsinki University Library, the Slavonic Library of the National Library of Finland, and the library of the Aleksanteri Institute. Have a look at http://libraryguides.helsinki.fi/russian_and_eastern_european_studies.

FUNDING TO STUDY CHILD WELFARE IN RUSSIA

The international, multidisciplinary research project “A Child’s Right to a Family: Deinstitutionalization of Child Welfare in Putin’s Russia” led by Meri Kulmala and hosted by the Aleksanteri Institute has recently been granted with research funding from several sources. The project is now funded by the Academy of Finland, the University of Helsinki, and the Kone Foundation.

The project investigates the on-going child welfare reform in Russia, which builds on the idea of every child’s right to grow up in a family and strives to dismantle the massive system of children’s homes by promoting domestic adoptions and developing foster family system and support services for families. Nine out of ten children left without parental care are envisioned to live in foster families in the future, whereas the remaining institutions are to be transformed into smaller, home-like units. The project tackles this new area of family policy at its critical point of development by scrutinizing new national programmes of child welfare, and examining their implementation the Russian regional governments and at the level of practices in concrete institutions. By bringing together practitioners and scholars from Finland and Russia, the project will ideally influence the development of the Russian welfare system under formation.

The team members of the project will present on the topic in the panels 1B, 6C and 7D of the Aleksanteri conference. The first findings of the project will be published in a special issue on the topic in the Journal of Social Policy Studies in spring 2017. Learn more about the project: http://blogs.helsinki.fi/childwelfare/.

HOW HISTORIANS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

Emma Hakala & Jenni Laakso

Historians without Borders (HWB) is an initiative that seeks to further public discussion about the use and abuse of history and bring historians’ knowledge to benefit peace-building and conflict-resolution efforts around the world. The first local HWB branch – Historians without Borders in Finland - was founded in the summer of 2015 at the initiative of Erkki Tuomioja, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The new NGO has found a home for its office at the Aleksanteri Institute.

In the spring of 2016 HWB organized its first international conference ‘Historians without Borders: The Use and Abuse of History in Conflicts’ which gathered over 300 historians and conflict resolution experts to the University of Helsinki. At the Conference’s closing plenary the attendees also established an International Network of Historians without Borders, which consists of experts who can both independently and in cooperation actively promote the HWB objectives in their own countries and communities.

A coordinating committee was elected to develop the Network further. The first seven members of the HWB Coordinating Committee are Prof Jan C. Behrends (Germany), Carl Bildt (Sweden), Dr Vasu Gounden (South Africa), Prof Margaret MacMillan (UK), Dr Erkki Tuomioja (Finland), Prof Christina Twomey (Australia) and Dr Sergei Zhuravlev (Russia).

Learn more about the initiative at www.historianswithoutborders.fi.
Currently the Aleksanteri Institute has the pleasure of hosting two Visiting Fellows working on highly interesting topics: Dr Stefan Guth on transnational science cooperation and Dr Rustam Urinboyev working on legal culture and Moscow’s Central Asian migrants. A further eleven Visiting Fellows of the 2016-2017 cohort will be joining us from mid-January until mid-July 2017. For the exciting variety of their research themes, please visit our website section for visiting fellowships.

**Dr Stefan Guth, University of Bern, Switzerland (August-October)**

Stefan Guth’s post-doctoral project “Oasis of the Future –The atomic city of Shevchenko/Aktau” contributes to an understanding of Cold War history as a period with more dialogue and bloc-crossing interactions than the standard historiography would have it. Dr Guth looks at the Soviet nuclear project through its technological, environmental, political, social and cultural dimensions. He probes into the role of nuclear techno-politics and vivid transnational science diplomacy in the Soviet Union from 1959 to 1991, also investigating the current developments in this field.

Dr Stefan Guth will present in the Aleksanteri Conference in panel 3G on 27 October at 10.00.

**Dr Rustam Urinboyev, University of Lund, Sweden (September-October)**

Rustam Urinboyev is working at the intersection of sociology of law and ethnography, analysing the everyday life and socio-legal integration of Central Asian migrant workers in Moscow. He probes into the ways the migrants manoeuvre their life in the Russian legal system and among the police, immigration officials, and border guards, and how they use informal order-producing structures such as protection rackets and other intermediaries. Dr Urinboyev’s expertise also covers traditional governance structures and political stability in Central Asia.

Dr Rustam Urinboyev will present in the Aleksanteri Conference in panel 6G on 28 October at 10.00.

The Aleksanteri Institute also regularly hosts visiting researchers coming to the University of Helsinki outside of our own visitors’ programme. During autumn 2016, we are hosting three researchers joining us through the Academy of Finland and the Russian Academy of Sciences bilateral researcher mobility scheme: Professor Irina Bussygina (MGIMO) working on Russia-EU relations, Professor Irina Olimpieva (Centre for Independent Social Research in St. Petersburg) focusing on Russia within broader international scientific-technical collaboration, and Professor Zhanna Chernova (National Research University – Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg) working on Russian family policy and child welfare. Associate Professor Atsushi Ogushi from the Keio University probes into the formation of centralized political regimes in Russia and Ukraine by analysing their politico-bureaucratic and economic elites. Dr Regula M. Zwahlen Guth (University of Freiburg) is studying the concept of freedom in the 19th century Russian thought. Yiannis Kokosalakis from the University of Edinburgh is in Helsinki to give the final touches to his doctoral dissertation on the Soviet Union Communist Party grassroots activism from 1926 to 1941.

**Visiting scholars (from left to right) Yiannis Kokosalakis, Irina Olimpieva, Rustam Urinboyev, Atsushi Ogushi, Regula M. Zwahlen Guth, and Stefan Guth.**

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**Aleksanteri Institute Visiting Fellows - Call for 2017-2018 Opens in January**

We invite scholars to Helsinki for short-term intense research periods and offer our Visiting Fellows favourable conditions for research, writing, and building new connections within the multidisciplinary research community of the Aleksanteri Institute and more broadly at the University of Helsinki and Finland. When joint research interests between Visiting Fellows alumni and our researchers materialise in the form of concrete endeavours, the Aleksanteri Institute is also happy to facilitate cooperation between alumni and our researchers.

The call for proposals for the Visiting Fellowships for the academic year 2017-2018 will be open from 9 January until 10 February 2017. The selection of the Visiting Fellows 2017-2018 will be concluded by 7 April 2017. More information: Aleksanteri Institute’s website > Visiting Fellowships or contact Head of International Affairs and Director of the Visiting Scholars Programme Anna Korhonen anna.korhonen@helsinki.fi.
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ALEKSANTERI INSIGHT - SNAPSHOTs OF EURASIA

Aleksanteri Insight is a series of expert opinions, published by the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki since 2013. It presents in a short format analysis of specific issues, their underlying causes and implications in the Eurasian context. The expert views address different trends, grasp hidden agendas and provide context to popular media headlines.

The series is published online at www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/insight

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. 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.

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