

Photo: Anna Fomina

The Aleksanteri Institute community supports colleagues at the European University at St. Petersburg.

EVENTFUL MONTHS AHEAD!

On 19 May the Culture Cluster of the Aleksanteri Institute's Centre of Excellence and *Russian MediaLab* research project are organising a seminar bringing together scholars and practitioners of media and art. The Finland Distinguished Professorship (FiDiPro) project will be completed with a conference on Russian politics on 1–2 June. Finland's centenary celebration is marked by a public lecture series '100-year old neighbours: Finland and Russia'. The call for the 17th Annual Aleksanteri Conference 'Russia's Choices for 2030' is open until 15 May. Find out more on the eventful times ahead at the Institute on pages 3–4.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EUSP AND CEU!

The Aleksanteri Institute expresses its strong support for the European University at St. Petersburg (EUSP) and the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. Both universities are important partners of the Institute in terms of scholarly dialogue and collaborative projects. The Aleksanteri Institute urges the relevant authorities to ensure the continuation of the scholarship and teaching at these renowned institutions.



FACE OF THE MONTH: EMILIA PYYKÖNEN

Roosa Rytönen

Emilia Pyykönen's office, which also serves as the library of the Aleksanteri Institute, is located in a somewhat hidden corner of the building. Despite this, everyone at the institute certainly knows where to find her.

Pyykönen has been working as a librarian and information specialist at the Aleksanteri Institute for the past five years. In addition to taking care of the institute's library, a major part of Pyykönen's work consists of offering guidance on information retrieval. Researchers turn to Pyykönen with concerns over book purchases, back-up information searches, copyright and how to access materials. While Pyykönen supports the work of in-house researchers, visiting fellows and students on national and international study programmes coordinated by the institute, she also regularly receives enquiries from people working in the field of Russian and Eastern European studies from all over Finland. On top of this, Pyykönen administrates the institute's social media accounts and keeps track of the researchers' publications and media performances.

The library of the institute houses a small but specialised collection of around 3,300 books. It focuses especially on recent scientific literature published in the field of Russian and Eastern European studies: 'As the orders for new books come from the researchers, the collection reflects research conducted at the institute'.

Last year, Pyykönen gained a birds-eye view of Finnish research on Russia when she worked on the assessment *Russian Security*

Policy – Research in Finland and Development Trends in Russia (with **Anna-Liisa Heusala** and **Markku Kivinen**) for the Prime Minister's Office. Her task was to go through all Finnish peer-reviewed publications from 2011 up until 2015 relating to Russian security. This involved reviewing over 2,000 items, of which 450 relevant ones were further categorised: 'It was an interesting experiment in finding out whether it is, in general, possible to assess on a national level what kind of Russia-related research exists'.

Pyykönen works in close collaboration with colleagues from the Slavonic Library of the National Library of Finland and the Helsinki University Library. A good example of this is the *ResearchGuide to Russian and Eastern European Studies*. The guide is a constantly updated compilation of resources available in the field. 'Excellent library resources give a really important competitive edge to the universities', Pyykönen contends. Thanks to Pyykönen's efforts, two extensive electronic resources became available last year for the students and staff of the University of Helsinki. First, the *Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War* (Routledge), which provides access to British government secret intelligence and foreign policy files from 1873 to 1953. Second, the *Biblioclub* database, which is providing access to over 60,000 Russian electronic books in 2017.

As regards open access resources in Russian scholarship, Pyykönen recommends *Kiberleninka* – a digital library of 1,000 Russian scientific open access journals: 'In terms

RESOURCES

ResearchGuide to Russian and Eastern European Studies. http://libraryguides.helsinki.fi/russian_and_eastern_european_studies
Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/librarynews/2017/01/16/uusi-aineisto-1900-luvun-ulkopolitiikan-top-secret-nyt-digiaineistona-secret-files-from-world-wars-to-cold-war-tietokannassa/?lang=en>
Biblioclub – University Library Online <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/librarynews/2016/12/15/trial-biblioclub-60000-russian-ebooks-for-a-year/?lang=en>
Kiberleninka – a digital library of 1,000 Russian scientific open access journals <http://cyberleninka.ru/>

of open access resources, Russia is ahead of the Nordic countries, which many people do not consider. This is because of the funding base of the Russian journals. Many of them are state-funded and therefore not dependent on subscription fees'.

Pyykönen has observed that the increasing amount of data accessible online has not decreased the need for the librarian's work – quite the opposite: 'The more digital and electronic resources there are, the more people need help and guidance in using them. The threshold for asking help seems to have become higher, though, as such resources can be accessed and used independently. My message is that you should ask without hesitation!'

As departmental libraries have been merged into the central University Library over the past years, the Aleksanteri Institute's library has become a rarity. Pyykönen emphasises the good sides of working as a librarian in a research organisation: 'For the library staff, it is a constant challenge to find the right time and place for delivering information on resources. When you work closely with the researchers, it is much easier to meet this challenge'. Her message to researchers and students is simple: 'Make friends with a librarian in your field! Then it is easier to ask what kind of resources there are and how to use them'. Professor **Tuomas Forsberg** confirms Pyykönen's advice: 'A good librarian is the researcher's best friend. It is a luxury to have an excellent library with adept information specialists working in the same building as you and helping with your research'.

At the time of the interview, Pyykönen is soon to take up a new position as Assistant Librarian in the Slavonic Library, but the cooperation with the Aleksanteri Institute continues. 'A new librarian will be welcomed by an enthusiastic, multidisciplinary research community that it is interesting to cooperate with!' ■



Photo: Roosa Rytönen

Emilia Pyykönen tells us that in recent years, the library has received a great deal of literature on Putin: 'I could have a whole shelf of Putin'.

Sakari Höysiemi

Two new energy-related projects have recently started at the Aleksanteri Institute under the lead of **Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen**, Professor in Russian Energy Policy. Both projects focus on the role of Finland in a globalised world, have a high policy orientation and, in addition to purely energy issues, they add security implications to the analysis.

The project *From Finland to Winland* (2016–2019) is an inter- and multi-disciplinary effort led by the Water and Development Research Group at Aalto University. It assesses the comprehensive security of Finland in terms of food and energy security, which are also closely linked to water security, thus establishing the so-called water-energy-food nexus. Professor Tynkkynen directs the Energy Policy sub-project, in which doctoral candidate **Sakari Höysiemi** is conducting research on the politico-economic aspects of energy security from the perspective of both domestic and international developments. His research focuses on the role of Russia in the Finnish energy trade in general, the role of the EU in terms of energy market regulation, and also on the role of Nordic cooperation in the sphere of electricity.

The second project, *Energy and Supply Security*, is a joint project led by Pöyry Management Consulting and funded by the Finnish Prime Minister's Office. The Aleksanteri Institute's role is to analyse questions of energy and security in the Finnish and Russian policy contexts. The result of the project will be a report for the Finnish Ministry of Defence on the impacts of geopolitical and energy transitions on Finnish security policy. Globally, energy transition, i.e. an increase in renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and the introduction of smart grid and new power storage technologies can cause significant impacts on countries which are traditionally dependent on fossil fuel exports. In the case of Finland, Russia is a key country to focus on due to its high dependence on its fossil fuels. ■



Photo: Oran Vityiney

Saara Ratilainen

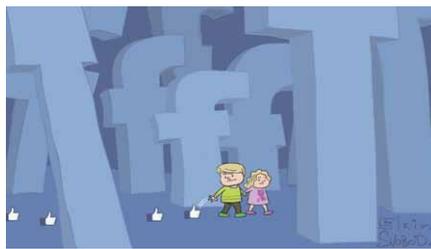


Image: Sergey Elkin

The international seminar 'Media, Capital and Culture: Institutional Spaces In Between', organised at the Aleksanteri Institute on 19 May 2017 brings together scholars of Russian culture, theoreticians of media and cultural and media practitioners. Focusing on Russian-language culture and media, the workshop analyses the interaction between institutionalised networks and how they impact freedom of expression in the neoliberal economic context. The workshop aims to explore how creative professionals working in media and cultural institutions negotiate political agency, cultural diversity and social critique in the age of digitalisation, transnational mobility and global consumption.

Ivan Kolpakov, Editor for the Riga-based, Russian-language online media Meduza.io is invited as the special guest speaker to discuss the transnational practices of independent media and online news making. Meduza was founded in 2012 and has become one of the leading oppositional Russian-language online media outlets. The seminar will be completed with a roundtable discussion 'New Emerging Spaces for Media, Arts and the Market,' with the participation of artists **Andrey Bogush** and **Liisa Roberts**.

The academic panels aim to open up a theoretical consideration of the cultural and economic policies which condition and govern, directly and indirectly, individual and collective entrepreneurship and freedom of expression. Nowadays, these complex questions need to be reconsidered in terms of Russia's role in cultural globalisation.

The seminar is organised by the Culture Cluster of the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies *Choices of Russian Modernisation*, *Russian MediaLab* research project, and the Leeds Russian Centre (Russia[n] in the Global context), with the support of the Aleksanteri Institute's Visiting Fellow Alumni short visits programme. ■

See the full programme for the seminar at <http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/news/index.html>

The research project *Migration, Shadow Economy and Parallel Legal Orders in Russia* (2017–2019) studies the socio-legal integration of Central Asian labour migrants in Moscow. Through looking at the everyday life and experiences of migrants, the project examines how undocumented migrants negotiate the restrictive socio-legal environment – and produce new methods of informal governance and legal order. Russia is the second largest recipient of labour migrants in the world and is an interesting case for exploring this global topic; while current studies focus on Western-type democracies, Russia represents the ever-growing category of hybrid political regimes that are neither democratic nor authoritarian. The project is funded by the Kone Foundation and the research team consists of Dr **Anna-Liisa Heusala** and Dr **Kaarina Aitamurto** from the Aleksanteri Institute and Dr **Rustam Urinboyev** from Lund University. ■

[SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL FOR THE ALEKSANTERI CONFERENCE BY MAY 15!](#)

The 17th Annual Aleksanteri Conference 'Russia's Choices for 2030' will take place at the University of Helsinki on 25–27 October 2017. The deadline for submitting paper, panel, and roundtable proposals is 15 May 2017.

Where Russia will be in 2030 is no longer as clear as it seemed a while ago. Some years ago, 'emerging powers' and the BRICS countries, including Russia, seemed to be on a path to experiencing strong economic growth, delivering well-being to their citizens, shaping global cultural trends, and ultimately challenging the prevailing balance of power. For many reasons, such expectations have proved somewhat one-dimensional. As a response to this changing trajectory, the Russian Government has initiated a new development strategy until 2030. World leaders in economy and politics, in academia and outside continue related debates.

The 17th Aleksanteri Conference will focus on Russian actors, who are making the choices on the way to 2030; explore the multiple structures and environments within which these actors are making these choices; and analyse the legacies of the pre-Soviet, Soviet, and post-Soviet periods which, in turn, are shaping Russia's choices.

The 2017 Aleksanteri Conference will also be the closing conference of the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies 'Choices of Russian Modernisation'. ■

For more information, see www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/conference2017

FINLAND AND RUSSIA – 100-YEAR-OLD NEIGHBOURS!

To celebrate the centenary of Finland's independence in 2017, the Aleksanteri Institute and the University of Helsinki are organising a public lecture series '100-year-old neighbours: Finland and Russia'. Events in 1917 meant that the relationship between Finland and Russia became one of two new independent states. Since then, relations have been affected not only by global events but also by local dynamics. Rather than regular news accounts, the lecture series wishes to offer a historical and nuanced perspective on Finnish-Russian relations. Each lecture is dedicated to a specific theme, with three specialists giving short presentations on the topic, after which the floor is opened for discussion.

The next lecture on 17 May deals with questions of internal security, and lectures organised for autumn 2017 address foreign politics, economy and global challenges. The lectures are held in Finnish. ■

The full programme can be found at http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/ajankohtaista/2017/100-vuotiaat_naapurit.html



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RUSSIAN POLITICS

The Finland Distinguished Professorship project (FiDiPro) *Regimes, Institutions, and Changes: Politics and Governance in Russia in Comparative Perspective* (funded by the Academy of Finland), led by **Vladimir Gel'man**, will be completed with the 'Critical Issues in the Research of Contemporary Russian Politics' conference. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the results of this five-year project and outline new avenues of research on Russian politics against the backdrop of international scholarly trends as well as old and new domestic and international challenges.

The conference will be held at the University of Helsinki on 1–2 June and will consist of the following panels: 'Rethinking Structure and Agency in Post-Soviet Regime Changes', 'State-Society Relations in Contemporary Russia', 'Territorial Dimension of Russian Politics: Regional Governance and Federal Control' and 'Governing the Russian State'. Among the distinguished guest speakers at the conference will be **Henry**

Hale (George Washington University, USA), **Lucan Way** (University of Toronto, Canada), **Samuel Greene** and **Gulnaz Sharafutdinova** (King's College, London, UK), **Graeme Robertson** (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA), **Ella Paneyakh** (Higher School of Economics, Russia), and **Brian Taylor** (Syracuse University, USA). ■

For more information, see http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/news/events/2017/contemporary_russian_politics.html

NEWS OF THE JEAN MONNET TEAM OF EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Katalin Miklóssy

NATURE/CULTURE RELATIONSHIPS IN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

The Jean Monnet Team organised an international seminar 'Commanding the Environment or Green Dictatorships? The Past, Present, and Future of Nature/Culture Relationships in Authoritarian Regimes – a Global Perspective', on 27–28 April 2017.

The two-day seminar was the first phase of a new interdisciplinary research initiative to study the evolution of authoritarian systems through the prism of how they relate to their physical environment. The project aims to investigate how an authoritarian regime constructs its culturally anchored stand on nature. It is equally important to understand how contemporary authoritarian regimes' attitudes to the environment differ from those of past authoritarian states.

Thus, the project brings together historians and social scientists in order to develop an innovative approach to the analysis of the culture-nature relationship in authoritarian regimes. Different cases of authoritarian regimes include examples from China, Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Argentine and Chile in addition to communist or post-communist Eastern Europe.

The seminar engaged the most prominent scholars in environmental policy and the environmental history of authoritarian regimes, such as **Stephen Brian** (Missis-

sippi State University, USA), **Richard P. Tucker** (University of Michigan, USA), **Julija Lajus** (St. Petersburg Campus of the Higher School of Economics, Russia), **Jonathan Oldfield** (University of Birmingham, UK), **Pepijn van Eeden** (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) and **Jennifer Hoyt** (Berry College, Georgia, USA).

After the kick-off seminar, the team intends to establish an international Hub based at the University of Helsinki. ■

For more information, see <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/environment/>



Micah Muscolino (University of Oxford, UK) giving a presentation on environmental management in Mao's China.

Photo: Roosa Rytönen

COURSE AT THE HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL

The Jean Monnet Team is organising a course, 'Challenges of Democratic Development in Eastern Europe', for international students on 8–18 August 2017 at the Helsinki Summer School. The course offers a broad overview of the most current societal and political development in the Eastern group of the EU, the Balkans and Ukraine. The focus of the course is especially on issues hindering the practice of democracy. Questions of corruption, nationalism, authoritarian competition, poverty, lack of gender equality, limited freedom of the media and civil society and environmental problems will be addressed. The course is based on new research by the team and deals with the latest developments and the emerging authoritarian tendencies in the region. ■

It is still possible to register for the course. For more information, see <http://www.helsinki.summerschool.fi/courses/course/challenges-of-democratic-development-in-eastern-europe/>

A promotional graphic for the Helsinki Summer School course. It features a woman with curly hair wearing a large yellow sunflower on her head. The text on the left reads 'CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE' and '6 ECTS'. The Helsinki Summer School logo is in the bottom right corner.

CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE

6 ECTS

HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL

NEW RESEARCHERS AT THE ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE

Anna Tarasenko is a postdoctoral researcher at the Aleksanteri Institute. She graduated from the European University at St. Petersburg and defended her PhD thesis (Political Science) at Perm' State University. Anna is currently working for the research project *A Child's Right to a Family: Deinstitutionalisation of Child Welfare in Putin's Russia* run by Dr **Meri Kulmala** (Aleksanteri Institute, Helsinki University). Within this broad topic, Anna is examining how NGOs and social enterprises are reacting to this reform and whether they are undertaking social obligations that used to be an integral part of the government's responsibility. In particular, her research seeks to identify regional patterns (if there are any) of reform outcomes. Despite rather tough resistance from the public sector, Anna believes that it is important to study different regional patterns and track the conditions that influence their development.

Mariëlle Wijermars is a postdoctoral researcher working on the *Russian MediaLab project*, where she is conducting inter-disciplinary research into the current state of online freedom of speech in Russia. Through several related subprojects, she aims to achieve a better understanding of the evolving legal, technological, economic and societal mechanisms of exerting state control over the Internet (and its limitations). In her research, she actively engages with broader questions concerning Internet governance and surveillance, new media and political protest, and 21st-century practices of propaganda and censorship. Mariëlle holds a PhD from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands (2016) and is currently adapting her dissertation *Memory Politics in Contemporary Russia: Television, Cinema and the State* for publication. The manuscript examines how the Russian government and various societal actors and groups, including the Russian Orthodox Church, used cultural memory to support, question or undermine the political legitimacy of the current regime in the period 2000–2012. Focusing on the interplay between these state and non-state actors, it also critically examines the role of cinema and state TV in mediating and shaping politically useful historical narratives. Previously, Mariëlle lectured at the University of Groningen and the University of Amsterdam.

Anna Klimova is a doctoral student in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Helsinki. She studied cultural anthropology at the European University at

St. Petersburg. Her MA thesis was dedicated to parenthood, childcare and contemporary home birth practices in Russia. Anna began to work at the Aleksanteri Institute as part of the project *A Child's Right to a Family: Deinstitutionalisation of Child Welfare in Putin's Russia* in April 2016. Her current research focuses on transition into parenthood and mechanisms of the social construction of family ties in the situation of foster care in modern Russia. Her general research interests include medical anthropology and digital ethnography; modern rituals, invented traditions and life scenarios; self and identity, kinship, parenthood, family narratives, the person and the state.

Susanna Hast is a researcher and artist working as postdoctoral researcher at the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian

Studies, Aleksanteri Institute. She defended her doctoral thesis at the University of Lapland in 2012 on the concept of spheres of influence and Russian discourses on the international system. Her monograph *Spheres of Influence: History, Theory and Politics* was published in 2014. She is currently finalising her second monograph which focuses on war experience and emotions in Chechnya. It will be published by E-International Relations in 2017. Hast is interested in art as a political witness, body as the site of emotion and knowledge and song writing as a research practice. Hast is also working with dance in the project *InHaLe – InHabiting Language*, funded by the Kone Foundation and as the media producer of *Politiikasta*, an electronic journal of Political Science (see also www.susannahast.com). ■



Photo: Roosa Ryykkönen

New researchers at the Aleksanteri Institute (from left to right) Anna Tarasenko, Mariëlle Wijermars, Anna Klimova and Susanna Hast.

FIVE NEW PROFESSORSHIPS IN RUSSIAN STUDIES

Russian studies on the central campus of the University of Helsinki will soon be strengthened with five new assistant/associate professors. These professorships of the Faculty of Arts will be placed with the Aleksanteri Institute.

The selection process for a new professorship in Russian security policy has just been completed. The rector of the University of Helsinki **Jukka Kola** has appointed Dr **Katri Pynnöniemi** as Assistant Professor of Russian Security Policy. This is a joint professorship with the National Defence University.

The other four professorships cover the following fields: Russian law and administra-

tion, Russian big data methodology, Russian environmental studies and Russian politics. These are tenure-track professorships in the University of Helsinki City Centre Campus strategic development initiative, funded by the Academy of Finland (Profi 2). The appointments will be confirmed during the summer and autumn of 2017. 'The opened positions are a valuable new resource for the research on Russia carried out on the central campus. The Aleksanteri Institute plays an important role in facilitating this research across faculty borders,' remarks **Markku Kangaspuro**, Research Director of the Aleksanteri Institute. ■



Students of the Russian and Eastern European Master's School at the Skazka (fairytale) canyon in Kyrgyzstan.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPLORING

Emma Lappalainen, University of Turku

The annual excursion of Russian and Eastern European Master's School took place on 3–14 March with a group of 19 explorers travelling as far as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. First, we stayed in Almaty – the vast, chilling and concrete-covered cultural capital of Kazakhstan – and then in Bishkek – the busy, polluted but hospitable capital of Kyrgyzstan. After this, some of the travellers headed back to north to see the unexpected pomposity of Astana, the actual administrative capital of Kazakhstan.

We visited several NGOs, such as Radio Free Europe and the Scandinavian Council, a number of universities and the United Nations Development Programme offices in Kyrgyzstan. Museums and guided tours were also part of the programme. Nevertheless, all the information provided to us in the form of presentations I could have read at home, lying comfortably on my couch. Why, then, bother to pack my backpack and ride hundreds of kilometres in a shaky marshrutka to hear somebody explain these things in a non-air-conditioned office?

We did not travel to learn the number of coups, names of authoritarian rulers and dates of gaining independence. Instead, the point was to witness the passion these people have towards improving their lives; the sorrow that the past and on-going injustice bring about. We need to have a cheery chit-chat with a curious border guard to let go of our own fear caused by our prejudices. We have to go and see the mountains ourselves to have even a tiny idea of the challenges that

just the geography poses to people living in these harsh lands.

None of this can be learned from books. In the age of endless, easily accessible information, we seem to have all the possible information at hand, but we can hardly do anything with it before we actually go and see how people live their daily lives. This is a privilege, and I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to learn in a way that I could never have done by lying on my couch at home, or attending a thousand lectures. ■

FRRESH: FINNISH-RUSSIAN COOPERATION IN DOCTORAL TRAINING

FRRESH, the Finnish-Russian network in the field of social sciences and humanities (supported by the KONE Foundation), held its spring 2017 seminar at the European University at St. Petersburg (EUSP) 13–15 March. **Sanna Turoma**, **Hanna Smith**, **Sari Autio-Sarasmo** (Aleksanteri Institute) and **Ivan Kurilla** (EUSP) delivered their theoretical and methodological lectures on history, international relations and cultural studies to seminar participants. During workshops, doctoral students from Finland and St. Petersburg discussed topics related to their on-going dissertation research.

FRRESH will continue its activities, aimed to develop new approaches to multi-disciplinary area studies, and promote research training for doctoral students in the field of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. The next major event will be the summer school in Orilampi, scheduled for 27–31 August 2017. ■

Dr **Ira Jänis-Isokangas**, Head of Research Training at the Aleksanteri Institute, implemented an evaluation of the higher education cooperation between Finland and Russia with an international steering group. The evaluation was conducted in 2016. The aim of the work was to assess the Russia-related mobility programmes, funding instruments and activities of the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO), which has been part of the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) from the beginning of 2017.

The assessment highlights the role of FIRST, the Finnish-Russian Student and Teacher Exchange Programme, in developing higher education cooperation with Russia. Over the more than ten years of its existence, it has managed to successfully increase higher education cooperation with Russia and to promote the internationalisation of the higher education institutions. The assessment recommends the further development of the programme through an initiative on short-term student exchanges for Finnish students and teachers as well as through developing a winter school concept to cover the social sciences and humanities fields as well. ■

For the full report, see http://www.cimo.fi/services/publications/russia_evaluation

TWO DEFENCES IN MAY 2017

MA **Mila Oiva** will defend her thesis 'Creation of a Market Place. The Polish Clothing Industry, Soviet Union, and the Rise of Marketing, 1949–1961' on 27 May 2017 at the University of Turku.

MA **Elena Kochetkova** will defend her thesis 'The Soviet Forestry Industry in the 1950s and 1960s: A Project of Modernization and Technology Transfer from Finland' on 27 May 2017 at the University of Helsinki.

VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR IN AUGUST

Save the date: Visiting Fellows Programme 10th Anniversary seminar on 23 August 2017. Join the Alumni of the Visiting Fellows Programme in sharing their analyses of Russia's international context, on the relationships between Russia and Central Asia, on US-Russia policy, and Russia's international sports mega-events. Venue: University of Helsinki Main Building. Registration opens early August. ■

ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAMME

Anna Korhonen

ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE VISITING FELLOWS MAY–JULY 2017

Between May and July 2017, the Aleksanteri Institute is hosting seven Visiting Fellows working on topics ranging from Russian behaviour in the Arctic through analyses of the Russian family photo albums and Ukraine's neo-patrimonial democracy to Russian social policy.

Stacy Closson, Global Fellow, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars 'Russian Behavior in the Arctic: Regional, Middle or Hegemonic Power?' (April–May 2017)

Linda J. Cook, Professor, Brown University 'Social Policy in the Russian Federation: Directions, Policy Processes, Outcomes, Prospects' (June 2017)

Oleksandr Fisun, Professor, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University 'Ukraine's Neopatrimonial Democracy after the Euromaidan Revolution' (mid-April–mid-June 2017)

Marcin Kaczmarek, Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland 'Two Ways of Influence-building: Comparative Analysis of the Eurasian Economic Union and the New Silk Road' (April–May 2017)

Anna Paretskaya, Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Madison 'Middle Class and the Twilight of Socialism: Discourses of Politics and Culture in the Late Soviet Union' (mid-May–mid-July 2017)

Olga Shevchenko, Associate Professor, Williams College 'Snapshot Histories: The Afterlife of Socialism in Russian Family Albums' (mid-May–mid-July 2017)

Katya Tolstaya, Associate Professor, VU University Amsterdam 'Theology after Gulag' (mid-May–mid-July 2017)

Earlier in the spring 2017 term, the Aleksanteri Institute hosted six Visiting Fellows: **Åse B. Grødeland** from Fafo, Norway; **Ilya Kalinin** from the Saint Petersburg State University, **Luke March** from the University of Edinburgh, **Galina Miazhevich** from the University of Leicester, **Ulla Pape** from the University of Bremen, and **Dilyara Suleymanova** from the University of Zurich.

OTHER VISITING RESEARCHERS

The Aleksanteri Institute is currently hosting four visiting researchers: Professor **Yoko Hirose** is working on a comparative analysis of unrecognised states and Associate Professor **Atsushi Ogushi** is analysing Russian and Ukrainian political and bureaucratic



Photo: Lauri Kervinen

International guest researchers (from left to right) Luke March, Jeremy Morris, Galina Miazhevich, Atsushi Ogushi, Stacy Closson and Marcin Kaczmarek.

elites. They are both from Keio University, Japan, and staying at the Aleksanteri Institute until March 2018. Professor **Zhanna Chernova** from the Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, studying Russian family policy and child welfare, is visiting the Aleksanteri Institute in May–June 2017. Visiting PhD student **Barbara Gaweda** from the University of Edinburgh is in Helsinki until June 2017, putting the final touches on her doctoral dissertation on gender politics in Central and Eastern Europe.

VISITING FELLOWS RESEARCH SEMINARS

11 May, Oleksandr Fisun 'Informal Politics and Neopatrimonial Democracy after Ukraine's Euromaidan Revolution'

31 May, Anna Paretskaya 'Protest Movements and the Culture of Democratic Liberty: The Example of Street Mobilisation in Russia, 2011–2012'

8 June, Linda J. Cook 'Russia's Socially-Oriented NGOs in the Context of Reform'

15 June, Olga Shevchenko 'Empire in the Album: Soviet Travel Photography and Generational Memories of Socialism Today'

20 June, Katya Tolstaya 'Theology after Gulag as a New Interdisciplinary Research Field: Academic and Societal Pros and Cons'

The seminars take place at the Aleksanteri Institute, Unioninkatu 33, 2nd floor Meeting Room.

For seminar abstracts and updates to the programme, see http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/news/events/2017/visitorseminars_spring_2017.html

VISITING FELLOWS 2017–2018

The Aleksanteri Institute has received 130 proposals for its visiting fellowships for the academic year 2017–2018. Selecting the Visiting Fellows was as difficult a task as always, with the institute only being able to support too small a share of the many outstanding proposals. We sincerely thank all the applicants and welcome the new fellows for the upcoming academic year.

Una Bergmane, Cornell University, USA

Eleanor Bindman, Queen Mary, University of London, UK

Sergiu Buscaneanu, Social Science Works, Germany

Rossen Djagalov, New York University, USA

Olga Gurova, Aalborg University, Denmark

Yuriy Matsiyevsky, National University of Ostroh Academy, Ukraine

Marcello Musto, York University, Canada

Ben Noble, University of Oxford, UK

Libora Oates-Indruchova, University of Graz, Austria

Judith Pallot, Christ Church College and University of Oxford, UK

Andrea Prontera, University of Macerata, Italy

Maria Smirnova, University of Manchester, UK

Vlad Strukov, University of Leeds, UK

Ivan Tchalakov, University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Anna Temkina, European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

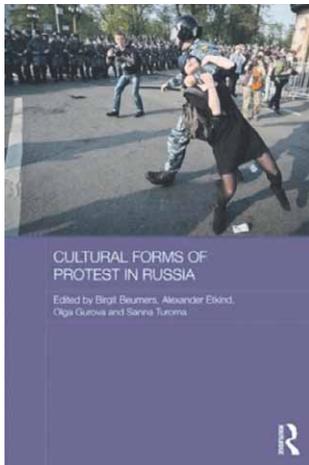
Ulrike Ziemer, University of Winchester, UK ■

Sanna Turoma

With the 2018 presidential election coming up, it is timely to look back at the election which re-established Vladimir Putin's position as Russia's head of state. The campaigns related to the election cycle in 2011–2012 gave Russian voters an opportunity to express discontent caused by increasing media control, institutional obstacles to entering the political market and the Kremlin power tandem. While political analysts would describe the campaigns as a key moment in Russian 'electoral authoritarianism', cultural scholars would see in this period an explosion of artistic creativity. Outside the sphere of cultural production, protesters gathered in the streets and confronted the anxious and arrogant authorities, whom they perceived as confused and corrupted. Retrospectively, one may conclude that there was no positive programme of social change, and the protests failed to shape a capable, popular leadership. But as more recent developments have demonstrated, these people gathered momentum with a feeling for history and a collective intuition about forthcoming events.

Based on a seminar organised at the Aleksanteri Institute, this volume gathers together leading specialists in Russian cultural studies to explore the multitude of expressions of resistance during the 2011–2012 elections. Filling a vital gap in the literature on protests in Putin's Russia, the volume explores the cultural dynamics of Russian protests, contextualising them against global political developments and the cultural tradition of Russian dissent. ■

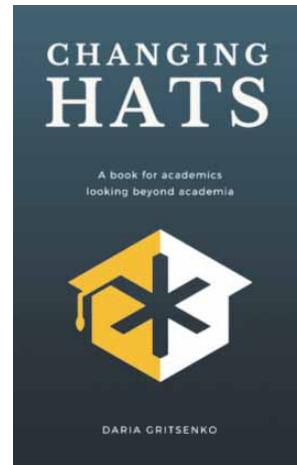
Cultural Forms of Protest in Russia. Eds, Birgit Beumers, Alexander Etkind, Olga Gurova, Sanna Turoma. Routledge 2018. 260 pages.



Daria Gritsenko

On average, only one in five PhD graduates from the EU will land a permanent university position. While academic job prospects may seem bleak, in particular in the human sciences, there are many careers outside academia where research skills are invaluable and a scientific mind-set is an advantage. Two years ago, when I defended my PhD, I had only a vague idea of what I could do outside higher education. It turned out that I was not alone: most postdocs find it extremely hard to manage the transition. The reason is that PhD graduates and industry recruiters often get 'lost in translation', so they do not recognise the tremendous opportunities that lie at the intersection of academia, business and policy-making. Following numerous conversations with recruiters, human resource managers, start-ups, head-hunters and academics who had already landed jobs outside higher education, I wrote a book that explores and demystifies transitions from academia to industry in the European context. *Changing Hats: A Book for Academics Looking Beyond Academia* advocates a proactive approach to career management and provides the reader with useful considerations on its practical aspects, from the art of writing open applications to the main building blocks of personal branding for academics. My primary message is that academic skills are in high demand outside academia, yet there is no unified marketplace for 'bright minds', which hinders freedom of movement between the university, business and public domains. Thus, we have to be open-minded and seek collaboration with different partners to enhance both our employability and the impact of our research. ■

A free sample chapter of *Changing Hats* is available at www.wildcards.me/book.



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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