

ALEKSANTERI NEWS

1 February, 2010 ■ Issue 1



Photo: Niina Into

The New Graduate School students Jarmo Koistinen, Miia Ijäs, Tuomas Hovi, Markus Kainu, Dmitri Jagodin, Freek van der Vet, Tuomas Laine-Frigren, Ira Österberg and Dragana Cvetanović

ALEKSANTERI CONFERENCE 2010 CALL FOR PAPERS OPEN

The Aleksanteri Institute will be hosting the 10th Aleksanteri Conference entitled *Fuelling the Future? Assessing Russia's Role in Eurasia's Energy Complex* from the 27th to 29th of October 2010 at the University of Helsinki. The call for papers and panels is open until 31st March 2010.

The conference will emphasize a multidisciplinary approach, and participation is open to a broad array of international scholars from the social and political sciences, cultural studies, the arts and humanities, law and economics. Due to the obvious economic and policy relevant components of the conference's theme members of the private and public sectors are also invited to contribute in the panels, and in specific roundtable discussions.

10th Annual Aleksanteri Conference

Read more on page 3

ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME CALL OPEN

The Aleksanteri Institute Visiting Scholars Programme awards Aleksanteri Visiting Fellowships to highly qualified scholars pursuing research on Russia and Eastern Europe in themes related to the Institute's research agenda. The fellowship provides an opportunity to conduct research and participate in the intellectual communities of the Aleksanteri Institute, the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Russian and Eastern European studies community. The programme awards fellows with a monthly grant of €2300. The duration of the research period can range from two to five months.

The call for applications for Aleksanteri Visiting Fellowships for the 2010–2011 academic year is open until 5 March 2010. The application form and instructions can be downloaded from the website at:

www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/fellowship

FACE OF THE MONTH: MARKKU KANGASPURO

The Great Patriotic War and the way it is interpreted restricts contemporary Russian freedom of expression to a greater extent than **Vladimir Putin** does, claims Dr **Markku Kangaspuro**, Director of Research at the Aleksanteri Institute. For a researcher of identity the contemporary Russian media scene presents an intriguing subject for study, given that the media is the central battle field of the history wars. A new research project, which will start this spring, pays particular attention to the use of history as an instrument of politics.

The research team at the Aleksanteri Institute, headed by Dr Kangaspuro, is part of a larger international project entitled *Memory at War: Cultural Dynamics in Poland, Russia, and Ukraine*, which recently received funding from the HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) Joint Research Programme. The *Memory at War Collaborative Research Project (MAW)* is directed by Dr **Alexander Etkind** from the University of Cambridge, who was a Visiting Fellow in the Aleksanteri Institute Visiting Fellowships Programme between August and September of 2009 and will visit again from 15 March to 15 April, 2010. The Finnish project also received funding from the Helsingin Sanomain Säätiö Foundation, and will particularly focus on how history is used as an instrument of politics.

The Finnish research group is focusing on the memory of the Second World War. Among other things, the group will investigate the changes in how representations of the Second World War are constructed and used. The researchers will also investigate whether the memory of the war still influences public discussion and politics in Russia as much as is commonly believed. The research team will also compare Russia with Finland. "Actually, it's really interesting that neither the Russians nor the Finns



Photo: Erkkä Lehto

speak of the Second World War," said Dr Kangaspuro. "For the Russians, the war is the Great Patriotic War, whereas the Finns talk of the Winter War on the one hand, and the Continuation War on the other".

Two postdoctoral researchers will work on this project. **Jussi Lassila** is about to finish his PhD thesis on the political communication of the pro-Kremlin youth movements Nashi and Idushchie Vmeste at the University of Jyväskylä. **Matti Jutila** is finishing his thesis on the transnational governance of minority rights in post-Cold War Europe at the University of Helsinki. As Dr Kangaspuro noted, "Success in such highly competed programs such as HERA is great, as it enables us to employ talented young researchers from the Graduate School".

Anna-Maria Salmi

Read about other new research projects starting at the Aleksanteri Institute on page 7

FACTS ABOUT MARKKU KANGASPURO:

- Director of Research at the Aleksanteri Institute and a Docent of Political History at the University of Helsinki
- Editor-in-Chief of *Idäntutkimus* (the Finnish Review of East European studies)
- Expertise: Russian politics, political history, the political use of history, identity politics, nationalism, new European identities within and outside of the European Union

Recent publications include:

- *Perestroika: Process and Consequences*. Eds Markku Kangaspuro, Jouko Nikula and Ivor Stodolsky. *Studia Historica* 80, Finnish Literary Society (forthcoming).
- *Constructed Identities in Europe*. Ed. by Markku Kangaspuro. Kikumora Publications (Aleksanteri Series 7/2007) Saarijärvi, 2007.
- *The Bolshevik Modernisation Project – Modernisation in Russia since 1900*. Eds Markku Kangaspuro and Jeremy Smith. Tampere: *Studia Fennica Historica* 12, Finnish Literary Society, 2006.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

RECONSIDERING COLD WAR INTERACTIONS

The Iron Curtain was far from impenetrable; East and West cooperated and communicated in many ways during the Cold War. The ninth Aleksanteri Conference *Cold War Interactions Reconsidered*, held in October 2009, gathered more than 300 participants to discuss issues such as this.

The conference emphasised Cold War interactions between East and West, with panels addressing such topics as media and the Cold War, Cold War films and culture, science, economy and technology, pictures of the enemy, human rights, legal dimensions, and re-conceptualisations of the Cold War.

The conference was opened by **Markku Kivinen** and chaired by **Sari Autio-Sarasmo**. Four keynote speakers – **Nadia Arbatova** (IMEMO, Moscow), **Jessica C.E. Gienow-Hecht** (University of Cologne), **Yale Richmond** (USA) and **Jadwiga Staniszkis** (University of Warsaw) – presented their keynote addresses in three plenary sessions.

Organisers were pleased with the outcome of the event. Sessions often attracted large audiences and discussion was lively. The Cold War tram tour and a reception organised by the City of Helsinki served as forums for networking, while the conference itself offered the opportunity to discuss new insights on the Cold War. These discussions will continue as the conference clearly showed that there are many young scholars who are eager to look at the era from fresh perspectives. A conference volume is in progress and will be published in 2010.

Riikka Nisonen-Trnka

UPCOMING SYMPOSIUM - CALL OPEN

SYMPOSIUM ON STALINISM

Discussions about the nature of **Stalin's** rule in the Soviet Union from the 1930s to the 1950s, as well as Stalinism's international impact, have resurfaced recently. This is partly due to the end of the Cold War and the demise of the related ideological clichés, and partly due to the opening of Soviet archives, which enables more reliable assessments of Stalinist policy and the number of its victims. The problem of Stalinism has a persistent actuality, especially with regard to the public discourse in present-day Russia, where the 'Stalin question' forms a painful moment in the national consciousness.

The symposium takes place in Helsinki on 3-4 September 2010. The focus is on the different explanatory models of Stalinism as a political, sociological and cultural phenomenon and the symposium will discuss the theoretical and methodological approaches to the subject. It will consist of eight to 10 presentations of 40 minutes each, plus discussion.

Paper proposals are welcome before 1 May 2010.

The call for papers and additional information is available at

www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/news/events/2010/0903stalinism.html

ALEKSANTERI CONFERENCE 2010 - CALL FOR PAPERS

FUELLING THE FUTURE? ASSESSING RUSSIA'S ROLE IN EURASIA'S ENERGY COMPLEX

Russia is an emerging energy giant. The country's energy interests are well established in the EU, as well as gradually expanding in Asia. As a result, the policy choices made within the context of the country's energy strategy will have profound and possibly indelible effects for industrial and individual consumers throughout Eurasia.

However, Russia is not only an exporting state. The country acts as a transit point for Central Asian hydrocarbons bound for markets in Ukraine. Its energy majors are involved in value added industries such as processing and petrochemicals. Finally, Russia is a large consumer of its own hydrocarbons, possessing one of the most energy intensive economies in the world.

With the scope of Russia's influence growing along much of the energy value chain academics, policy makers and the private sector are left with one basic question: to what extent (or How) will Russia impact the economic structure and political dimension of the Eurasian energy sector?

In order to address this fundamental question, the Aleksanteri Institute will be hosting the 10th Aleksanteri Conference entitled *Fuelling the Future? Assessing Russia's Role in Eurasia's Energy Complex* from the 27th to 29th of October 2010 at the University of Helsinki.

THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Coordination of Interests in the Energy Sector: can't business, institutions, and society agree?
- Energy Industry Specifics: exploring the structures that govern the hydrocarbon, electricity, and alternative industries.
- Energy Geography: the Energy Trade from regional, state and local perspectives.
- The Strategic Perspective: is there such a concept as energy security?
- Breaking Icons: New Approaches to the study of energy policy

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

- Proposals for panels (approx. 500 words): March 31st, 2010
- Abstracts for individual papers (approx. 300 words): March 31st, 2010
- Notification of Acceptance: May 31st, 2010
- Conference: 27th-29th October 2010

Please submit all the requested information through the forms on the conference website:

www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/conference2010

In addition, you will find further practical information on submissions, travel and accommodation on the website.

For further assistance, please contact the conference organisers at:

fcree-aleksconf@helsinki.fi



GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS

A NEW FULBRIGHTER

Elina Viljanen, a PhD student at the Graduate School of Russian and East European Studies, is going to Columbia University in New York to complete her doctoral research on the development of Soviet musical aesthetics.

"I'm really glad about the ASLA-Fulbright Grant for the USA", says Viljanen, who was chosen as one of 17 new Fulbrighters among the record number of applicants. "I need a year off from my regular university activities in order to concentrate on my PhD and the research that is carried out at Columbia University [Harriman Institute] resonates with my scholarly interests".

In addition, Viljanen believes that becoming acquainted with the major methodological and topical interests and future prospects of U.S. doctoral students and academics is a perfect way to define the theme of her post-doctoral research.

"Whatever happens in my career in the future, this opportunity is an enormous chance for me to progress in what I do and challenge my research more. I also want to create good personal contacts and introduce Finnish research in this field to the USA. Finally, I love jazz clubs."

Niina Into



DISSERTATION ON THE SOVIET MUSIC CONTROL SYSTEM

MERI HERRALA DIVES INTO THE RUSSIAN ARCHIVES

The difference between popular writing and genuine research lies in evidence and systematic use and interpretation of that evidence. When **Meri Herrala** first visited the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History in 1993 as a student of political history, she realised that although writing about the Soviet system had become widespread after perestroika, there were still innumerable files and memos that had not been looked at. As a result, no one seemed to know for sure how the control system of music worked, particularly with regard to opera.

She spent three years and countless hours in various Russian archives. By the end, she had collected more than enough material to finish her master's thesis on **Vano Muradeli**, one of the composers attacked by the anti-formalist campaign of 1948 for not adhering to the principles of social



realism. "By then it was clear that I wanted to continue studying the Soviet music control system", says Herrala.

The work she had already done in the Russian archives proved to be invaluable, when access to many of them was restricted again in 2002. "Entire fonds just disappeared" says Herrala. "Luckily, the small circle of Finnish scholars studying Soviet music life is very collegial and people give tips to one another about the available archival sources."

What Herrala found out was that the system had many different actors with different motives, and **Stalin** himself, of course, had the last say on the matter when he chose to do so. As a result, nobody was quite sure about the qualities that a true social realistic opera should possess. "But the system still had its logic. It even seems pretty trivial now", says Herrala. To see for yourself, read Herrala's doctoral thesis, entitled *Socialist Realism instead of Formalism. The Formation and Development of the Soviet Music Control System 1932–1950*.

Niina Into

GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS

RECENT DISSERTATIONS

■ **Mattias Spies** (associate member) defended his PhD thesis on *Oil Extraction in Extreme Remoteness – the Organisation of Work and Long-distance Commuting in Russia's Northern Resource Peripheries* at the University of Joensuu on 13 November 2009.

■ **Meri Herrala** defended her PhD thesis entitled *Socialist Realism instead of Formalism: the Formation and Development of the Soviet Music Control System 1932–1950* at the University of Helsinki on 21 November 2009.

■ **Jouni Järvinen** (associate member) defended his PhD thesis, *Normalisation and Charter 77 – Violence, Commitment and Resistance in Czechoslovakia* at the University of Helsinki on 29 January 2010.

MASTER'S PROGRAMME

CALL FOR NEW STUDENTS

The Master's Programme in Russian and East European Studies is a national multidisciplinary study programme that offers specialisation in Russian and Eastern European studies through the perspectives of economics, society, history, politics, law, environment, culture and theology.

The Master's School is open to applications from any MA student of its Finnish network universities and the call is open until 31 March. For more information, see:

www.helsinki.fi/vie-maasterikoulu/english/principles/applying.html



GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS

UNDERSTANDING THE ENIGMATIC GIANT

The Graduate School cooperated with the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (Glasgow) to organise a seminar entitled *Understanding Russia: Critical reflections on method, practice and knowledge creation* in November. Researchers from Finland and the UK came together for two intensive but rewarding days to decipher the riddle that is Russia. Papers given by postgraduate students discussed the sometimes problematic but often fruitful position of an 'outsider' conducting research on Russia. They were joined by keynote speeches from senior researchers that consisted of both historical perspectives into Russian studies and current research approaches and themes.

Lynne Attwood (University of Manchester) opened the seminar with a vivid keynote address on the realities of conducting fieldwork in Russia in the 1980s and how interviewing attitudes and methods have developed since. **Vikki Turbine** (University of Glasgow) focused on the various tensions underlying the field of cross-cultural feminist research, where researchers must negotiate between the attitudes of the informants and their own conceptions of the matter, which can sometimes be challenging. **Tuomas Forsberg** (University of Tampere) introduced his new research theme on emotions in Russian foreign policy and ways to address these in research. One example is how the media contributes to the image of **Vladimir Putin** as the "angry man". **Natalia Baschmakoff** (University of Joensuu) concluded the seminar with a look at her fieldwork in the collection of oral memories in Karelian villages.

Overall, the seminar was a perfect example of interdisciplinarity at its best. When it works as it should, everyone can join in the discussion, learning from one another and the result of the interaction will hopefully bear fruit long into the future. Even though this seminar probably did not crack the riddle of Russia, it did leave all the participants looking forward to a continuation!

Hanna Ruutu

GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS CHOSEN

For the period of 2010–2013:

- **Cvetanović, Dragana**: Language and identity in Serbian and Finnish rap lyrics, University of Helsinki
- **Eriksson, Sari**: The Bologna process in Russian higher education policy: A case study of change and control discourses of the administrations of European University at St. Petersburg and St. Petersburg State University, University of Helsinki
- **Ijäs, Miia**: Citizenship and political agency of the nobility in the early modern Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth (16th century), University of Tampere
- **Laine-Frigren, Tuomas**: Psychology and power in Hungarian socialism, University of Jyväskylä
- **Yagodín, Dmitri**: Radicalism of Russian political blogosphere: contesting the hegemonic discourses of civil society, University of Tampere
- **Österberg, Ira**: Analysis of Alexey Balabanov's film *Brother (Brat, 1997)* in the context of Russian and Western cultural traditions, University of Helsinki

SUMMER SCHOOL - CALL OPEN

CIVIL SOCIETY AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

With the collapse of socialism in Europe, many people had high hopes of a burgeoning civil society and a swift transformation to a consolidated democracy. It has, however become apparent that the road is both long and divergent, and there is enormous variation between the former Soviet states, from lively civil societies and stable democratic institutions to totalitarian regimes with little space for democracy.

The international multidisciplinary summer school for doctoral students focuses on the civil societies around the Baltic Sea, paying particular attention to the post-socialist states, especially Russia. The main themes include:

- Democratisation and political culture
- Social movements and associational activity
- Gender aspects of civil society
- Civil society during socialism, long-term development, historical dis/continuities
- West-east transfers, Western influences and impacts, democracy assistance, debates on the implementation of democracy, intended and unintended consequences
- Ideas and new theoretisations within post-socialist societies, choices and alternative ways

Invited lecturers include: **Risto Alapuro, Vladimir Gel'man, Maria Lipman, Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom, Richard Sakwa** and several other distinguished scholars.

The course will be held on 6-11 June 2010 in the Åland Islands, an area of Finland renowned for its pure Nordic nature, and spectacular views of the archipelago and the glimmering Baltic Sea.

The deadline for applications is 14 March, 2010. For the programme, call, and instructions, please see: www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/neru/activities/2010programme.htm

Organisers: Aleksanteri Institute, Södertörn University/BEEGS, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)/ Department of Russian and Eurasian Studies. The course is funded by NordForsk.

For shorter periods:

- **Hovi, Tuomas** (2011–2013): Dracula's country? The tradition about Vlad the Impaler and its use in Dracula tourism in Romania, University of Turku
- **Kainu, Markus** (2012–2013): Twenty years of transition - poverty outcomes of income redistribution in European post-socialist countries, University of Turku
- **Koistinen, Jarmo** (2010–2011): Comparative criminal law study of the borderline between criminal offences and misdemeanors especially in economic crime in Finland and Russia, University of Lapland
- **Koivunen, Pia** (2011): World youth festivals and the Soviet Union, 1947–1973, University of Tampere
- **van der Vet, Freek** (06/2011–2013): Seeking justice in Europe: the transnational diffusion and translation of human rights practices in Russia, University of Helsinki

THE 2010 ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE CULTURAL FORUM FOCUS ON PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF IDEAS IN RUSSIA

The Aleksanteri Institute Cultural Forum offers a series of lectures and discussions focusing on the study of Russian culture. The monthly meetings bring together scholars and artists of different fields to reflect on the dialogue between arts, research, and society as well as the challenges of Russian and Soviet cultural studies.

PROGRAMME FOR SPRING 2010

- Feb 8th: Bahtin, venäläinen kielitiede ja filosofian traditio
Tapani Laine (researcher, University of Tampere):
Subjektien sulautumattomuus
- Mika Lähteenmäki (researcher, University of Jyväskylä):
Dialogisuuden lähteillä
- Mar 8th: Tshehov, Stanislavski ja venäläinen teatteri
Liisa Byckling (researcher, University of Helsinki):

Mihail Tshehovin teatterifilosofiasta ja käytännöstä

Kristiina Repo (translator, Tampere):

Miksi Stanislavskista puhutaan tänään?

■ Apr 12th: Addressing russian cultural history

Richard Stites (professor, Georgetown University, USA):

Reflections on high and popular culture in Russian history

Brendan Humphreys (research fellow, Aleksanteri Institute):

A Russian prince and English hero: Obolensky and the Anglo-Russian exiles

■ May 5th: Mielipuolisuus ja nerous venäläisessä kulttuurissa

Maija Könönen (researcher, University of Helsinki):

"Mielipuolisuudesta" venäläisessä kirjallisuudessa

Martti Suosalo (actor, Helsinki): Gogolin hulluna

Meetings at the Aleksanteri Institute once a month on a Monday at 4-6 pm, with the exception of Wednesday, May 5th at 3-5 pm.

For more information, see

www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/english/news/events/2010/culturalforum.html
or contact *Elina Viljanen (elina.viljanen@helsinki.fi)*



BOOK PRESENTATION: THE BIOGRAPHY OF ANATOLIY CHUBAIS A TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC REFORM

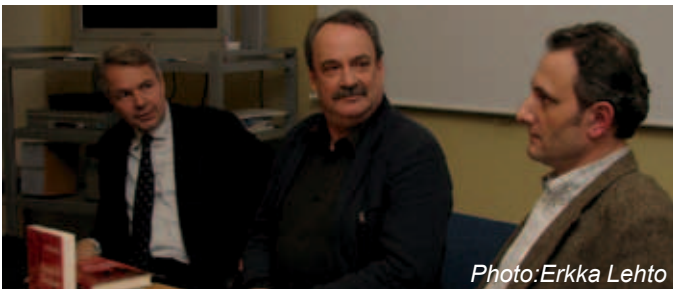


Photo: Erkka Lehto

Pekka Haavisto, Jukka Mallinen and Andrei Kolesnikov

“Had politics taken a different tack, we could have seen **Anatoliy Chubais** as Russia’s president or prime minister”, said journalist **Andrei Kolesnikov**, the author of Chubais’s biography. “Chubais, the symbol of the economic reforms, is an ideal object of study since he is an exceptionally talented person who was able to perform the necessary reforms. The Russian way to deal with the economic reforms is emotionally very charged, and there are virtually no books in Russia devoted to the history of the reforms”, Kolesnikov said.

Andrei Kolesnikov’s book, *Anatoliy Chubais: Biography*, was recently published by WSOY as *Taustalla ja tulilinjalla, Venäjän yksityistäjä Anatoli Tshubais*. The Aleksanteri Institute, together with the East Office of Finnish Industries, organised a book presentation on 8 December, 2009, in which Mr Kolesnikov was interviewed by MP **Pekka Haavisto**. Inspired by Haavisto’s insightful questions and comments, a lively discussion followed about the current state of the economy, politics and democracy in contemporary Russia. Kolesnikov summarised the event by saying that the era can be characterised as one of “oligarchic capitalism”, but that either “oligarchic” or “capitalism” can be emphasised, depending on the speaker.

Anna-Maria Salmi

FAREES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010 IN HELSINKI TERRY COX AS A KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Finnish Association of Russian and East European Studies’ (FAREES) Annual Conference (VIEPÄ) will be held on 8–9 March 2010 at the House of Science and Letters (Tieteiden talo, Kirkkokatu 6) in Helsinki. The conference invites researchers and students of Russian and East European studies to discuss new trends in research and academic publishing together with keynote speakers Professor **Terry Cox** (University of Glasgow), the editor-in-chief of *Europe-Asia Studies*, and Professor **Birgit Menzel** (University of Mainz/Germersheim, Germany).

Papers by young researchers looking to participate in the Stockholm ICCEES World Congress *Eurasia: Prospects for Wider Cooperation* will be presented in the panels. The FAREES Board will grant a travel scholarship of 500 euros for a promising young scholar to participate in the Stockholm conference.

The Annual Meeting of FAREES is organised in connection with the conference.

Soili Nystén-Haarala

Registration for the conference, applications for membership and contact information can be found at www.viets.fi

The Finnish Association of Russian and East European Studies FAREES (VIETS) is an independent academic association that aims to increase resources of Russian and East European Studies in Finland. Its main activities include publishing the journal *Idäntutkimus* and arranging annual conferences in cooperation with Finnish universities. The association also lobbies to develop the careers of young researchers and monitors the labour market situation of specialists of the branch. The Aleksanteri Institute supports FAREES by providing technical support and office services.

ALEKSANTERI VISITING FELLOWS

FIVE NEW VISITORS

■ **Volodymyr V. Kravchenko** is a professor and head of the Department of Ukrainian Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy at VN Karazin National University (Kharkiv). His main fields of specialisation are the history of Ukrainian historical writing (XIX-XX cc.), the history of Kharkiv University and the intellectual history of the Sloboda (Kharkiv) region. The ongoing research project takes a regional approach to examining identity change along the Ukrainian-Russian border (discursive as well as real) starting from the middle of the 17th century.

Fellowship period: 1 February–31 March, 2010



■ **Victor A. Shnirelman** is a chief researcher in the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Russian Academy of Sciences and a member of the Academia Europaea. He has authored over 300 publications, including more than 20 books. Since the early 1990s, he has studied nationalist ideologies in Russia and CIS, racism and xenophobia, ethnicity and nationalism, contemporary neo-paganism, politics of the past, social memory and interethnic conflicts. His current research is entitled *From Social Class to Ethnos to Immigrants: Origins and Development of Racism in Russia in the Twentieth and the Very Early Twenty-First Centuries*.

Fellowship period: 1 January–28 February, 2010



■ **Richard Stites** is professor of history in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He has had a long career in research and teaching on the themes of revolutions, Russian culture, women's history and World War II and his most important publications include *Revolutionary Dreams* (1989) and *Russian Popular Culture* (1992). In his current study, Stites pays attention to the (mostly) volunteer units sent to the Russian and other fronts from Hitler's allies, puppet regimes and occupied countries, setting them against different cases of cooperation with Nazi Germany. These include the Finnish army in the Continuation War and the various units formed from Russians and other Soviet nationalities.

Fellowship period: January 2010, Honorary Visiting Scholar February–August 2010



■ **Vlad Strukov** is assistant professor in the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies and the Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds. He is also a new media curator and the founding editor of *Static*, an international journal supported by the Tate and the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, as well as a member of the Russian Cinema Research Group at University College London and the editor of the *Russian Cyberspace Journal*. At the Aleksanteri Institute, Strukov will focus on digital techno-

logies in post-Soviet Russia. He is also completing a volume on discourses of glamour and celebrity, co-authored with Helena Goscilo, as well as the *Historical Dictionary of Contemporary Russia*, co-authored with Robert Saunders. *Fellowship period: February 1–April 30, 2010*

■ **Elena Trubina** is professor of philosophy and social theory at the Ural State University. Her publications include *Rasskazannoye Ya (The Narrated Self)* (2000), which explores the relationship between post-Soviet subjectivities and the fundamental themes of 20th century philosophy, such as authenticity, action and creativity, ideology, social and political change and history and memory. She has worked on the issues of post-Soviet space and diversity, changes in the value systems and trauma and has co-edited a collection of essays devoted to the social dimensions of trauma (*Travma: Punkty*, 2009). Trubina's current research focuses on the interface between various mapping practices, mobility, art and the post-Soviet space.

Fellowship period: 1 January–28 February, 2010



PROJECT NEWS

SUCCESSFUL AUTUMN FOR THE ALEKSANTERI INSTITUTE

Several new projects are starting at the Aleksanteri Institute in 2010. One of these is a new research project led by Dr **Markku Kangaspuro**, entitled *Constructing Russian Identity in the Media: Between the History of WW II and the Future of Europeanness*. The project received funding for the 2010–2012 period from HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) as part of a larger project entitled *Memory at War: Cultural Dynamics in Poland, Russia and Ukraine* and also from the Helsingin Sanomain Säätiö Foundation. Dr **Katalin Miklóssy** received funding from the Academy of Finland and the University of Helsinki for the same period for her project, *Competition in Socialist Society*. Researcher **Mikko Pa-lonkorpi** will be a coordinator for a research project on security and development issues in the South Caucasus within the Wider Europe Initiative framework of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. A project that supports the working life orientation of future specialists on Russian and Eastern Europe, entitled *OVET - Venäjän ja itäisen Euroopan osaajana työmarkkinoilla*, is going through final negotiations. The project is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

Individual researchers also received funding. The proposal submitted by the Institute in conjunction with Professor **Margarita M. Balmaceda** for the EU's 7th Framework Programme (Marie Curie Incoming International Fellowship) was graded exceptionally highly in the European Commission's expert evaluation. Dr **Sanna Turoma** was chosen as one of 12 postdoctoral fellows of the University of Helsinki for 2010–2012, **Elina Viljanen** received a Fulbright Graduate Grant for advanced studies in the United States and several other scholars received funding from various foundations.

ROSA VIHAVAINEN:

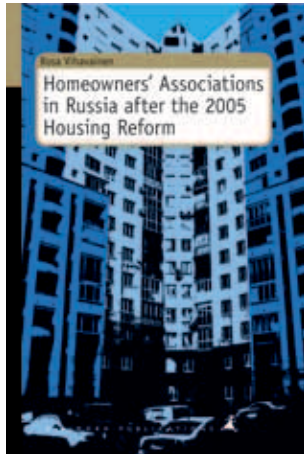
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN RUSSIA AFTER THE 2005 HOUSING REFORM

What happens when the state abruptly pulls out from the management of the housing it has monopolised for decades? The housing privatisation process brought with it many questions about the rights and obligations of apartment owners in Russia. One answer was to form homeowners' associations to manage common property.

According to this study, there are substantial differences in how associations work, depending primarily on the age of the house. "Residents in old houses have very different resources and interests for maintaining common property" says Vihavainen. While the problem of free-riders can become a serious hindrance to the operations, a working association can bring residents closer together and help to bridge socio-economic gaps.

The book is based on interview data from St Petersburg's homeowners' associations. It examines both the social dynamics within the associations and their relationships with outside actors, such as local authorities.

Kikumora Publications A 20. ISBN 978-952-10-5148-7. 274 p. 20 EUR + VAT



JOUNI JÄRVINEN:

NORMALIZATION AND CHARTER 77 – VIOLENCE, COMMITMENT AND RESISTANCE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

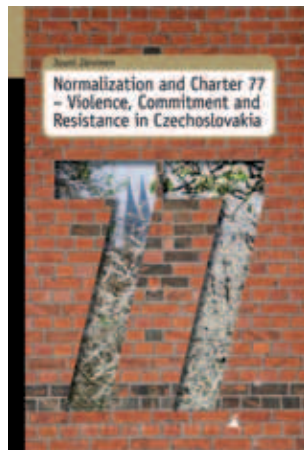
The 1968 occupation of Czechoslovakia marked the beginning of 'normalisation' in that country, a political and societal stagnation that lasted two decades. A dissident initiative, Charter 77, emerged in 1977 and demanded that the country's leaders respect human rights.

Through empirical analysis, this study suggests that normalisation can be understood as a fundamentally violent process and discusses the structural and cultural manifestations of violence with relation to Charter 77. Furthermore, the study provides an understanding of the motives and the impetus behind dissent, the strategic shifts in Charter 77 activities and the changes in the regime's policies toward Charter 77. According to the study, Charter 77 was not as non-political as commonly believed. In fact, it was an actively political entity in the latter half of the 1980s.

The study "is a major, significant, and ground-breaking piece of scholarship, which will remain a fundamental source for social and political historians for years to come."

- Professor Michael Long, director of Slavic and East European Studies, Baylor University, USA.

Kikumora Publications A 21. ISBN 978-952-10-5152-4. 366 p. 20 EUR + VAT.



Aleksanteri Institute

Finnish Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies

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