

Future of Russian Working Seminar

Thursday, 6 October 2011, 10:15–15:15, Ingunn's residence

Present: Ellen, Martin, Sasha, Ingunn

будущееfuture

ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ
Technology

Agenda

1. Reports on work in progress and exchange of information
2. FoR collective monograph
3. Upcoming events

1. Reports on work in progress and exchange of information

Martin:

— [1 June] Gave an interview to national Norwegian radio on the arrest of the alleged killer of Anna Politkovskaya.

— [10 June] Participated at symposium to the honour of Erik Egeberg on the occasion of his 70th birthday at the University of Tromsø with a paper called “Humanioras legitimitet — formidling som russiskfagets (fortid og) framtid” on the legitimacy of Russian studies among the Norwegian public.

— [11 June] I published a review of three translations into Norwegian of 20th century Russian poetry (Khlebnikov, Mayakovskiy, Tsvetaeva) in the Norwegian daily *Klassekampen*.

— [20 June–1 July] Taught at the Bergens Summer Research School at the course “Norms and Language” which was organised by Ingunn.

— [12 August] Gave an interview to national Norwegian radio on censorship on the Russian Internet.

— [31 August–2 September] Participated at the “Memory of War” conference at Solstrand, which was organised by Ellen, with the paper “#Holodomor — Twitter as an arena for public discourse in Ukraine”. The paper will be reworked for a post-conference publication.

— [21–22 September] Organised a visit by Mikhail Shishkin to Bergen with an evening event at the University of Bergen Student Society and a lecture at the University.

— [27 September] I gave a presentation of the Future of Russian project for Norwegian teachers of Russian at a seminar organised by the National centre for studies of foreign languages [Fremmedspråksenteret] in Oslo. Thanks to Sasha for helping me out with the presentation.

My article for *Russian Language Journal* has been accepted and will appear as “Digital determinism: the Cyrillic alphabet in the age of new technology”.

My article for the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* has been read by three reviewers, and I was asked to revise and resubmit. I plan to do so before Christmas.

I am working on my paper for the Virtual Russia conference in St.Petersburg later in October. The title of the paper is “The National Politics of Domain Names: Russia and Ukraine dealing with ICANN”.

I have been invited to the University of Tromsø for an interview over the position as Associate Professor in Russian culture studies.

Ingunn has

- taken a two-day workshop on ERC grant application writing (19 and 26 May)
- [17 June] had an interview published in the weekly newspaper *Dag & Tid* about literature and censorship in contemporary Russia.
- [June 2011] been a course leader of the “Norms and language” BSRS course, taught this course, together with Martin, Sasha, Gasan, and colleagues Miguel and Ana Beatriz from the Spanish dept. Great experience!
- [10 June] given a paper on Philology & Perspectives on the Humanities at a Tromsø seminar in honour of Professor emeritus Erik Egeberg.
- Written and given a paper at the WW conference “Old Conflicts — New Media” (31.8.11–2.9.11), entitled Прогулка по ключевым: словам памяти»: Digitally mediated commemorations of the Soviet linguistic heritage. Will be reworked into an article for the planned conference volume.
- Been offered a professorship in Russian at the U of Tromsø but declined the offer
- Dealt with organizational matters in connection with the upcoming St Petersburg conference (programme, abstracts folder, transfers and the like)
- interviewed, together with Martin, Mikhail Shishkin in Bergen 21 September 2011 & hosted a dinner for him & colleagues on Sept 22.
- been busy writing a project application for the next five years.
- written and submitted the annual report for the Research Council. Thanks to Ellen for gathering publication data
- responded to questions by journalists in connection with last week’s publicity about my UiB position.

Sasha has

- participated in the “Dialogue” conference in Moscow in May, had the paper published in the proceedings volume;
- together with Ingunn, Martin and others taught the course “Norms and language” at the BSRS school;
- gave a lecture at the Linguistics summer school for schoolchildren in Russia;

- served on a jury of the International Olympiad in Linguistics (Pittsburgh, USA)
- submitted an article on language evolution to a large international conference;
- wrote a couple of popular-science articles for “Elementy.ru”
- participated in the course “Language change in Modern Sociolinguistics” in Bergen;
- started to teach a course (RUS301) for MA students at UiB;
- received a part-time teaching position (RUS112, RUS211) for the next semester;
- been finishing the work on the “Not the butler”, an anthology of British crime fiction translation;
- presented a paper at the “Old Conflicts, New Media” conference in Solstrand (together with Tanya);

Ellen

- Has presented talks on the Web Wars project for two conferences in July: one in Cambridge, for a workshop on Memory & Theory, and one, via Skype, in Passau, for a conference called “From Intercultural to Digital Revolution” (was invited for this event by Dirk). The first I enjoyed greatly, at the second the technological ramifications were a bit problematic.
- Has organized and hosted, together with Vera, the Web Wars conference which you all attended. We were both very pleased with the outcome.
- Is now finalizing, also together with Vera and with Julie Fedor from Cambridge, the publication proposal for a Web Wars book (*the conference outcomes*) for an Anglophone publisher and a second one for Neprikosnovennyi zapas.
- Has finalized (and gone through endless editing rounds for) an article on political gender metaphors for an NLO volume by Alexander Etkind, Ilia Kukulin, and Dirk Uffelmann.
- Has submitted an article on Sorokin & sincerity at the International Journal of Cultural Studies, which was accepted for review.
- Has become coordinator of the Media & Memory research group, at Amsterdam University, for which I’ll be organizing a workshop next Spring. This is a very exciting group, and in general my contacts with digital-media scholars in Amsterdam are proving very fruitful (esp. talk Thomas Poell, Twitter researcher, on Richard Rodgers’ Digital Methods initiative/summerschool, which I plan to attend next summer).
- Has given an interview on urban imperfection to the Dutch newspaper Het Parool.
- Has taught a class on ‘How New Media Affect Russian Literature’ here in Bergen, yesterday.
- Is co-hosting & preparing paper for the Virtual Russia conference, for ASEES, and articles for JCMC (a – heavily adjusted – resubmitted version of my first manuscript), a transnational volume on electronic literature edited by Marcel Cornis-Pope, and a Routledge collection on contemporary Russia by, among others, Stephen White and Rosalind Marsh.

— Has started working on a larger imperfection project, for which I want to explore our current culture as an ‘imperfection culture’ with a larger team (plans, a.o.: develop an imperfection typology and a chronology of the infatuation with imperfection from the 1990s onwards).

2. FoR collective monograph

We went through the extended abstracts (1000–1500 words; 86,1% were submitted in time to be included in today’s discussion). Very good! Generally, contributors have aimed and managed to design and conceptualize their chapter within the context of our vision and stated focus of the book. Co-authoring chapters also works so well so far. We discussed each chapter abstract and made plans for the further reviewing & writing process:

1. In the course of the next couple of days and weeks the core group (Ellen, Sasha, Martin, Ingunn), will put down their comments to each abstract using google docs. The contributors will then receive their abstract back containing all comments from the core group and be asked to resubmit within a short time.
2. We assign readers (two, occasionally three) to each abstract and send the revised versions to those readers. The readers will be FoR participants from the group of contributors.
3. The readers send their comments to the author with cc to Ingunn.
4. The authors revise their abstracts (alternatively, indicate in a note which suggestions they will take into account and how) and return them to Ingunn.

Steps 1–4 should be completed by Dec 1, 2011, which will give us four months to write the chapters (deadline 1 April, 2012). We will proceed along similar lines after April 1, 2012, but at that stage also include external reviewers.

3. Upcoming events

The Jannis Androutsopoulos workshop (3–4 October) has been rescheduled (13–14 February 2012)

19–22 October: Conference, F3.5: Virtual Russia: Digital Space and Post-Soviet Political Culture (http://www.uib.no/rg/future_r/research/virtual-russia)

17–20 Nov: ASEES (one FoR panel)

27–29 Nov: Krongauz visit (lecture on Monday 28 Nov)

13–14 February 2012: Jannis workshop

7–10 June 2012: F4, workshop/conference devoted to the FoR book.

Paradis, 7 October 2011
/Ingunn