

## Future of Russian Working Seminar

Tuesday 1 December 10:15-13, seminar room 216

Thursday, 3 December 14–15:30, seminar room 216

Present: 1/12: Martin, Ellen, Ingunn; 3/12: Martin Alexander, Ellen, Ingunn, Nina Mechkovskaia

будущееfuture

ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ  
Technology

### Agenda

1. Reports on work in progress and exchange of information
2. F2 — points for a “Future of Future” brainstorming session
3. AAASS 2010 (18–21 nov 2010, deadline for panel proposals: 15 January)
4. Meeting of Nordic Slavists 18–22 August 2010
5. Dates/plans for working seminars Spring 2010, incl date for guest lecture

### Details

#### 1. Reports on work in progress and exchange of information

##### *Martin has*

- Participated at the AAASS conference in Boston with a paper. It was very useful for reestablishing old contacts and establishing new ones (especially, for me, in the field of Belarusian studies), and for getting a grasp of what is going on in Slavic studies in general.
- Interviewed Sorokin (4 Dec 2009) at the UiB Students’ Society, together with Ingunn.
- Translated Viktor Erofeev’s short story *Zhizn s idiotom* and essay *Pominki po sovetskoi literature*, and started to write an introduction for the translation.
- Written a book review of Per Anders Todal’s *Fanden på flat mark — rapport frå Kviterusland* for the daily *Klassekampen*.
- Started to work on my F2 paper.

##### *Ellen says:*

- Have been to AAASS and presented two RuNet-related presentations there — a short introduction to the HERA project that I hope to pursue from next year onwards, and a paper related to our project, on linguistic imperfection in Tolstaia’s and Goralik’s blogs. Conference was very productive, lots of new contacts, esp. interesting talks with people from Columbia, e.g. Eugene Gorny.
- Florian Toepfl has invited Henrike Schmidt and me to participate in a workshop on Russian new media in New York, at Columbia’s Harriman Institute. Because of my pregnancy I have declined the offer to actually travel there, but we are currently planning a workshop in which I will participate via Skype. This will probably take place sometime in February. The exact theme is not set yet.

- Am working on two presentations that I'll give in Berlin next January: a talk for our F2 conference, and a guest lecture on sincerity in contemporary Russian literature and blogs, which I'll be presenting at the FU on January 5. Am taking F2 as an opportunity to think more on the relationship between preferences for (digital) imperfection and categories of play and humour. I also want to use the occasion to compare my findings in blogs with those in Twitter posts, by the same and some other Russian writers.
- Have submitted my review of Adi Kuntsman's book on Russian online hate speech for *Digital Icons* (formerly *The Russian Cyberspace Journal*) — it will be online in a week or two on [www.digitalicons.org](http://www.digitalicons.org).
- Have reworked a chapter of my book on political gender metaphors into an article. I will submit it to a peer-reviewed journal; will keep you posted if I hear more about publication.
- Am working on the last preparations of the Cambridge workshop on contemporary Russian culture. It will take place next week (December 11–12), and we are busy with the last practical preparations. I will give a short intro to the round table, where I'll touch, among other things, on the influence of (Russian) new media on shifting conceptualizations of centre and periphery.
- Have done some minor administrative tasks for the Future of Russian project, e.g. arranging travel reimbursement claims from the AAASS participants, following up on earlier claims, and so on.
- Have started planning my maternity leave and some practical details related to that (arranging replacement at the *Digital Icons* editorial team, for instance).

**Sasha has:**

- Worked on the presentation at WS on 03.12.2009 and on F2 paper;
- Participated in “From Poets to Padonki” book launch;
- Participated in the invitation of Acad. Vladimir A. Plungian for the guest lecture in spring (Plungian promised to answer by December 15);
- Wrote a news article on highly theoretical linguistic matters (in brief: usage-based grammars seem to be better models for children's early grammatical knowledge than fully abstract grammars: <http://elementy.ru/news/431181>);
- Talked about the “Future of Russian” project on a radio-show “Slovochetanie” on “Russkaia sluzhba novostei” (<http://www.rusnovosti.ru/programms/prog/42772/60628/>);
- Had a “linguistic puzzle” used (and published) on Moscow Linguistic Olympiad (22.11.2009);
- Continued with other activities mentioned in the previous reports.

**Ingunn has**

- Participated in the “From Poets to Padonki” book launch 24 October (as have Ellen, Martin and Sasha)

- Interviewed, together with Martin, Sorokin (4/12 2009). See a short report here: <http://ingunnl.wordpress.com/2009/11/06/en-dag-med-sorokin/> and pictures here: <http://web.mac.com/ingunn.lunde/iWeb/Web-Site/Sorokin.html>, Sorokin's own report here: <http://www.snob.ru/selected/entry/8758>. After Sorokin's visit, the Norwegian translation of *Ochered'* has been reviewed three times, in *Dagbladet*, *Klassekampen* and *Aftenposten*.
- Written her AAASS paper, but had to cancel her participation because of illness.
- Written an application for funding (Slavica Bergensia 11, Gasan's publication (with introduction, commentaries and index) of a very exiting pre-pardonki ol'banskii *samizdat* text of the 1960s).
- Worked on the programme planning for F2 together with Henrike.
- Prepared Nina Mechkovskaia's visit.
- Received the committee's report for the Bergen professorship (20 applicants) and in view of her ranking as number one on the list (☺), started to think about a topic for a trial lecture (probably in January 2010).
- Worked on an abstract (deadline 15 Dec) for a contribution on Popov (mentioned in previous reports).

Ingunn also mentioned to recent books on Russian/Post-Soviet Humour: Seth Grahams book on the *anekdot* and an edited volume: Olga Mesropova & Seth Graham, eds. *Uncensored?: Reinventing Humor and Satire in Post-Soviet Russia*, Slavica 2008; Seth Graham, *Resonant Dissonance: The Russian Joke in Cultural Context*, (Studies in Russian Literature and Theory), NUP 2009.

## **2. F2 - points for a "Future of Future" brainstorming session**

Ingunn gave a short orientation on the background for this planned session in the F2 programme. In view of the announced call for applications for a new range of Norwegian, NFR founded, Centres of Excellency which is expected to come by the end of 2010, we should already now discuss possible models of cooperation within and beyond the Landslide and Future groups, including the prospects of designing such a Centre and handing in an application in 2011. We discussed briefly. Ellen mentioned the HERA project on cultural memory and Martin the EURLING project here at UiB as possible partners/extensions of our own network. We also touched upon ideas about joint MA/PhD courses.

## **3. AAASS 2010 (18-21 nov 2010, deadline for panel proposals: 15 January)**

We will probably send out a CFP in order to propose one or two Future of Russian panels at the next AAASS conference. One question here is funding. Ingunn will come back to this when it is clear what this year's participation has cost.

## **4. Meeting of Nordic Slavists 18-22 August 2010 (deadlines for workshops/papers: 1 March 2010) <http://www.uta.fi/laitokset/kielet/trans/slavistmotet/>**

We discussed briefly. Martin and Ingunn will probably propose papers, Sasha perhaps. Ingunn has also been invited to take part in the PhD workshop with a lecture.

## **5. Dates/plans for working seminars Spring 2010, incl date for guest lectures**

We are awaiting Plungian's final answer (15 December). If he is unable to come at the proposed time (last week of February), we will try to find a time for his visit in the autumn. For the February meeting we will have to decide after 15 Dec whether we should try to invite someone else from Sasha's list on such a short notice, find someone at the UiB, or concentrate on a WS only for that meeting.

For April and May/June, we plan 1–2 guestlectures by Vera and Gasan. Ellen will try to coordinate and propose dates.

[3 December]

## **6. Sasha presented his paper: Некоторые количественные различия между устной речью, письменной речью и коммуникацией с использованием служб мгновенных сообщений**

which was discussed in the group, with the participation of Professor Nina Mechkovskaia from Minsk.

Professor Mechkovskaia also gave a guest lecture on Wednesday 2 December: Интернет-коммуникация и ее влияние на общение и язык повседневной жизни. Her comprehensive handout, including many examples and an interesting bibliography, will be available on the Future of Russian site.

On the 2 December we gathered at Ingunn's place for dinner, as usual.

Bergen 4 December 2009  
/Ingunn