

## Future of Russian Working Seminar

Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 10:00–15:00, Humanities building, 217  
Present: Ellen, Martin, Sasha, Ingunn, Michael via Skype from 13–14:15

будущееfuture

ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ  
Technology

### Agenda

1. Reports on work in progress and exchange of information
2. Plans, dates — spring term 2012
3. Future prospects (post Future)
4. Future monograph

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

#### *Martin:*

#### Publications

- [1 November] Submitted final, proof-read, version of the article “Digital Determinism” for *Russian Language Journal*.
- [10 November] Submitted article “#Holodomor — Twitter and public discourse in Ukraine” to the Webwars volume.
- [15 November] Was interviewed by Belarusian web site budzma.org on my relationship to the country. [<http://budzma.org/projects/byc-belarusam-3/byc-belarusam-pohlyad-zboku-marcin-paulsen.html>]
- [28 November] Wrote a piece on the translation of the name “Edinaia Rossiia” into Norwegian for a local newspaper.
- [Currently] Working on new version of article for JCMC, significant revision after feedback from peer reviewers.
- [Currently] Have worked on abstracts for two contributions to Future-monograph.
- [Future] Have agreed to submit a Russian language article for a volume ed. by Gasan and Ilya.

#### Events

- [13 October] Participated in panel on the political situation in Belarus at Litteraturhuset, Oslo. Organised by the local council of youth organisations.
- [19-21 October] Participated in Virtual Russia conference in St.Petersburg with the paper “The National Politics of Domain Names: Russia and Ukraine dealing with ICANN”.
- [1 November] Participated in workshop by Josie Dixon on monograph publishing.
- [Future] Been invited to organise seminar on Russian blogosphere at the Week of Russian Literature in Oslo, late April.

### ***Sasha has***

- had a paper accepted to the “Evolution of language” conference (Kyoto, Japan, March 2012);
- had an E-letter (joint authorship) accepted for publication in the “Science” magazine;
- finished teaching for this autumn and was assigned some more in spring (including some lectures on the “FoR” research);
- attended a PhD-course (“Lost in linguistics. A guide to the current landscape of linguistic theory”) in Oslo;
- been invited as a discussant and a plenary speaker to the “International conference of young philologists” in Tallinn, Estonia (February 2012);
- been working on the abstracts for the monograph;
- been preparing for the midway evaluation (December 2011)
- participated in the organization of the guest lecture by Maxim Kronhaus.

### ***Ellen***

- Has taught a lecture on Russian writer-bloggers at the University of Amsterdam;
- Has presented a paper on social media and ‘digital memories’ for the F3.5 conference;
- Has presented two papers at ASEEEES, one on postcolonialism and Russian social media for the Web Wars project and one on imperfection for the Future project (very useful, what Martin observed last year is still/even more true now: the project has a very good reputation);
- Has presented a talk on a book chapter on sincerity for a book on late-/postmodern trends in European literature by Amsterdam’s professor of Dutch literature, Thomas Vaessens (the book came out last week);
- Presented a talk on the Web Wars project for colleagues at the University of Amsterdam last week (guest researcher afternoon);
- Has calm months to come, paperwise, but will present a talk on Russian social media and (political) language at the University of Freiburg next January;
- Is organizing a workshop for all HERA partners in Amsterdam next Spring;
- Is developing plans, together with Alexander Etkind and Ab Imperio editor Marina Mogilner, to organize a workshop on memory and media at the University of Amsterdam in December 2012;
- Has given an interview on the ‘Putin-boosed’ incident and its aftermath in social media to the Dutch newspaper *NRC Next*;
- Is reworking her article for JCMC on the aesthetics of imperfection, to hopefully resubmit it by the end of this week (point of discussion: hypotheses or not?);

- Is finalizing, together with Vera, a selection of chapters of the Web Wars book for Routledge (including our own introduction, which we have finalized only last month);
- Has submitted a chapter for a book on memory in Eastern Europe edited by Alexander Etkind and Uilleam Blacker for PalgraveMacmillan;
- Is writing a book review on an NLO volume on the history of emotions for the *Zeitschrift für Slavische Philologie*;
- Resubmit articles for Gasan, possibly the one that was published in *Poets to Padonki* before;
- 2 FoR abstracts;
- Has set apart the coming months, until the end of February, for finalizing her book on sincerity, which will be sent out for review by Northern Illinois University Press.
- Is working, with a Polish/Ukrainian PhD student, on a PhD proposal on a cultural heritage and Eastern European new media for the University of Amsterdam.

***Ingunn:***

- I have submitted an article for the Webwars volume, entitled “«Прогулка по ключевым словам памяти»: Digitally Mediated Commemorations of the Soviet Linguistic Heritage”
- agreed to contribute with a Russian-language article for a volume edited by Gasan and Ilya, probably based on my contribution to the *From Poets to Padonki* book.
- had an MA student submit his thesis (on Putin’s vs Medvedev’s rhetoric concerning terrorism), to be defended on Dec 6.
- Organized and participated in the “Virtual Russia” conference in St Petersburg 19–22 October with an opening address on the 7 October hashtag #спасибопутинузаэто
- worked rather intensively on a major grant application for the ERC, submitted 24 November.
- written a report on Sasha’s progress for his midway evaluation (to take place on Dec 9).
- revised my abstract for the FoR monograph and organised the first round of feedback & revisions
- agreed to be part of a research network organized by Rasmus Slaattelid at the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities (SVT), in a project on the role of the humanities for political development. My commitment includes participation in three workshops, including one “walkshop” in the mountains (!), during 2012.
- dealt with issues concerning my UiB case
- **plans:** paper/articlewise, my plans for the spring term include a Sorokin paper for the April conference in Aarhus, a talk for the week of Russian literature in Oslo (late April), something for the department seminar 27 March, a pre-concert talk at the Georgian vocal ensemble Rustavi’s concert at the International Music Festival in Bergen 25 May, and, above all, work on the FoR monograph/chapters.

## **2. Plans, dates — spring term 2012**

The following dates were set for the spring term:

- Jannis Androutsopoulos workshop 13–14 February 2012 (possible co-operation with the Research school in Linguistics and Philology — Ingunn is in contact with Victoria Rosén about this)
- 21–13 March 2012
- 17–19 April 2012
- 23–28 April: Week of Russian Literature, Oslo, co-organized together with Petrusjka and Fritt Ord
- 7–10 June 2012: F4: Final conference (conference starts ca 16:00 on the 7<sup>th</sup>)

## **3. Future prospects (post Future)**

We had a brief discussion about future prospects of co-operation. First of all, we agreed that the local and international networks of FoR partners and participants are an invaluable resource when it comes to developing new projects, ideas, co-operation, conference panels, etc. We also briefly talked about funding opportunities and prospects in a short- and long-term perspective. We will come back to this topic during one of our spring 2012 meetings.

## **4. Future monograph**

We went through the revised abstracts (all but three abstracts received) and discussed some details in individual contributions. We decided that, since this first round of feedback on abstracts was rather thorough, and quite time-consuming for the core group & Michael, we will skip the planned second round of “peer feedback” within the group. This means that the authors now have four months to prepare their/our first full chapter drafts (due 1 April 2012).

We also had a good discussion of the introductory part of the book with Michael, who agreed to take the main responsibility for this chapter in its revised conception. Rather than opting for separate chapters on the different “contexts”, we decided to write an introduction which covers the necessary contexts/background, situates Runet research within the international field of new media/internet studies and outlines the profile and place of this book. Martin will contribute towards the political/economic/social contexts part, Tine towards the cultural contexts part and Ellen & Ingunn towards the research review part. — Michael will sketch an outline of the new introduction.

In conclusion, we discussed candidates for external reviewers/commentators at the June meeting. We will also ask them to give papers — 20 or 30 min short keynotes on ideas for future research in their particular field of expertise (alternatively on a topic chosen by themselves); the idea is to design a conference programme consisting of chapter draft sessions in combination with keynote papers by invited guests.

We briefly discussed the question of editors from the core group, and came to the conclusion that Martin and Ingunn will be the official editors together with Michael.

We agreed to make all revised abstracts available to all contributors through Google docs.

Bergen, 30 November 2011  
/Ingunn