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CEELBAS WORKSHOP

Monday June 6 2011
Wolfson College, Linton Road, OX2 6UD

THE USE OF COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN THE
AREA OF RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES



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Overview

The world's most pressing problems require new solutions that transgress our disciplinary boundaries. The notion of interdisciplinarity appears to be highly challenging for researchers, teachers and students. The workshop will discuss cognitive linguistics as a promising theoretical foundation for interdisciplinary cultural research, specifically in the area of Russian and East European Studies (REES). It will provide a valuable opportunity for professional development in language-based research skills that will serve both scholars and current postgraduate students at CEELBAS universities interested in the area of interdisciplinary research. The workshop will promote an open dialogue between cognitive linguists, linguists and scholars from other humanities and social sciences fields interested in cultural research. The workshop will show how innovative cognitive linguistic methods can be applied to the exploration of various facets of culture including such notions as national identity and conceptual processes underlying different cultural manifestations. The list of questions for discussion includes:

- To what extent do the research methods used in cognitive linguistics provide a good foundation for interdisciplinary (social sciences and humanities) cultural research?
- How can cognitive linguistic methods help to elucidate the cross-cultural and cultural phenomena in the 'REES' field, including various important aspects of national identity?
- How do the cognitive linguistic methods allow us to map new directions in the exploration of such issues as national identity, post-communist treatment of history, symbolic use of language, and the role of the mass media in the formation of new social identities?

Workshop Programme

9.30-10am Registration, Coffee and Tea

Morning session

- Welcome and Introduction - **Dr. Chris Davis**, Co-Director of CEELBAS (University of Oxford) and **Dr. Anna Pleshakova** (University of Oxford)

- **Keynote Speakers:**

Professor Mark Turner (Case Western Reserve University, USA) will focus on the application of conceptual integration/blending (CI) research methodology to cultural analysis.

Dr. Anna Pleshakova (University of Oxford, UK) will provide examples of CI analysis in relation to the Russian media discourse.

11.40 – 12.00 Coffee and Tea Break

Professor Paul Chilton (Lancaster University, UK) will talk about the cognitive linguistic approach - Deictic Space Theory - in relation to the political discourse.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Afternoon Session

- A 'round table' session will take place, with all workshop participants contributing to a general discussion on the utility of cognitive linguistic methods for the interdisciplinary cultural research in East European Area studies.

- **Round Table Speakers:**

Dr. Ekaterina Chown (University of Nottingham and University of Sheffield)

Olivia Knapton (King's College London, UK)

Kristen Perrin (University College London, UK)

Maria Repnikova (St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, UK)

Joanna Szostek (St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, UK)

Discussant: Dr. Alexandra Smith (University of Edinburgh, UK)

16.00 – 17.00 Refreshments

RESEARCH PROFILES

Keynote speakers

- **Professor Paul Chilton (Lancaster University, UK)**

Paul Chilton is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at Lancaster University. He is the author of numerous scholarly publications – books and articles - and some journalistic ones, arising from historical currents and crises of the time: the division of Europe, nuclear weapons, racism.

In the past few years Paul Chilton developed a theoretical model called Deictic Space Theory (DST). 'Deictic' is the term linguists use for certain core expressions whose meaning depends on the position and time of speaking - in short, on a speaker's 'point of view', in all senses of the term. He has almost completed a book explaining this theory. The central idea is that a certain range of linguistic expressions can be described in terms of abstract but simple geometrical relationships. A unified account of this theoretical approach will be presented in a forthcoming book: (2011) *Language Structure and Geometry*, Cambridge University Press.

Paul Chilton's work in cognitive linguistics has an interdisciplinary relationship with Critical Discourse Analysis. His 1996 book, *Security Metaphors*, is a detailed account of the conceptual framing of the doctrine of deterrence during the Cold War period, ending with an account of the fracturing of the discourse around the crucial year 1989. The use of conceptual metaphor theory in this book is in line with a whole range of work now carried out by cognitively inclined 'critical' analysts of discourse, particularly among a new generation of scholars. He has also explored the phenomenon of metaphor, particularly in international relations, in a number of journal publications.

His views on cognitive linguistics in critical discourse analysis will be laid out in a forthcoming book: *Language and Critique: Rethinking Critical Discourse Analysis*, Cambridge University Press. This book will take up some of the points raised in his (2005) paper 'Missing Links in Mainstream CDA', where he raised some challenges for CDA. The CDA is now at an important juncture. The book will introduce philosophical issues that CDA has not before engaged with, drawing on discourse ethics, on new ideas in critical social theory, and on moral philosophy.

Paul Chilton has investigated metaphorical expressions in texts of very different types and historical contexts. In *The Poetry of Jean de La Ceppède: A Study in Text and Context* (chapters 5 and 6, 1977), he described networks of metaphor in religious poetry of seventeenth century, using a systematic (but not fully cognitive) framework. This brief description does not exhaust all the research trends investigated by Professor Paul Chilton. For more information and the publications list please see <http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/profiles/Paul-Chilton/>

◦ **Professor Mark Turner (Case Western Reserve University, USA)**

Mark Turner is Institute Professor and Professor of Cognitive Science at Case Western Reserve University. He is the founding director of the Cognitive Science Network. Many of his papers are available on his author page on the Cognitive Science Network. His most recent book publications are two edited volumes, *The Artful Mind: Cognitive Science and the Riddle of Human Creativity*, from Oxford University Press, and *Meaning, Form, & Body*, edited with Fey Parrill and Vera Tobin, published by the Center for the Study of Language and Information. His other books and articles include *Cognitive Dimensions of Social Science: The Way We Think about Politics, Economics, Law, and Society* (Oxford), *The Literary Mind: The Origins of Thought and Language* (Oxford), *Reading Minds: The Study of English in the Age of Cognitive Science* (Princeton), and *Death is the Mother of Beauty* (Chicago). He has been a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the National Humanities Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Advanced Study of Durham University. He is a fellow of the Institute for the Science of Origins, external research professor at the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study in Cognitive Neuroscience, distinguished fellow at the New England Institute for Cognitive Science and Evolutionary Psychology, and Extraordinary Member of the Humanwissenschaftliches Zentrum. In 1996, the Académie française awarded him the Prix du Rayonnement de la langue et de la littérature françaises. For 2011-2012, he is scheduled to be a fellow of the Centre for Advanced Study of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

Professor Turner's research focuses on the mental operations that make it possible for cognitively modern human beings to be so astoundingly creative as a species and to have such remarkable higher-order cognition. His research particularly emphasizes cognitively modern abilities for mapping and conceptual integration.

Professor Turner has proposed theories concerning the nature and emergence of higher-order cognitive operations that distinguish human beings from other species and that appear in the record of our descent during the Upper Paleolithic. These higher-order cognitive operations make it possible for human beings to have remarkable behaviours: Language, gesture, art, music, mathematical insight, scientific discovery, religion, advanced social cognition, refined tool use, dance, fashions of dress, sign systems, and social systems of politics, economics, and law.

Together with Gilles Fauconnier, Mark Turner developed the theory of Conceptual Blending - a general theory of cognition. The key concepts are laid out in their book - Fauconnier, G., M. Turner. 2002. *The Way We Think: Conceptual Blending and the Mind's Hidden Complexities*. New York: Basic Books. For more information see: <http://markturner.org/> and <http://markturner.org/blending.html>

Co-Director of CEELBAS

- **Dr Christopher Davis (Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Christopher Davis is the Reader in Command and Transition Economies at Oxford University, the Chair of the Management Committee for Russian and East European Studies at Oxford, and a Co-Director of the ESRC-AHRC-HEFCE Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies (CEELBAS). He has been teaching and carrying out research in the Economics Department and the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies at Oxford University since 1991. He was a Lecturer at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham during 1978-91. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from Cambridge University for a Ph.D. dissertation on the economics of health in the USSR. Dr. Davis has been involved in the analysis of economic, demographic and health issues in the USSR/FSU and Eastern Europe throughout his career. Dr. Davis has visited the USSR and Russia over 30 times and spent one academic year as an exchange student in the Faculty of Economics at Moscow State University.

Workshop Convenor

- **Dr Anna Pleshakova (Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Anna Pleshakova is Coordinator of Language Training at REES, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, and Research Member at Wolfson College. She is engaged in research in the fields of cognitive linguistics, discourse analysis and cultural analysis, especially on cultural models and cultural networks, and conceptual integration/blending analysis of Russian mass-media discourse and fictional narrative discourse such as literature and film, as well as on applied cognitive linguistics and e-learning. Her interests range from meaning construction in discourse, analysis of metaphor, metonymy and counterfactuality, and conceptual integration in interdisciplinary research to the exploration of national identity in post-Soviet Russia

Discussant

- **Dr Alexandra Smith (University of Edinburgh, UK)**

Dr Alexandra Smith (PhD, SSEES, University of London, UK) is a Reader in Russian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Alexandra Smith taught Russian literature and culture at the University of Essex, University of Bristol, University of Canterbury and University of Sheffield. Her list of publications includes 2 books (The Song of the Mocking Bird: Pushkin in the Works of Marina Tsvetaeva, Peter Lang, 1994, and Montaging Pushkin: Pushkin and Visions of Modernity in Russian 20th-c. Poetry, Rodopi, 2006) and over 170 articles and reviews related to Russian 19th-, 20th- and 21st c. literature and culture, and comparative literature. Alexandra Smith's research and teaching interests include Russian literature, theatre, and film; comparative literature; literary theory; critical theory; film studies. Currently she is working on the AHRC-sponsored project (together with Dr Katherine Hodgson, University of Exeter) < "Reconfiguring the Canon of Twentieth-Century Russian Poetry, 1991-2008". She is also writing a book on Russian twentieth-century elegy. (alexandra.smith@ed.ac.uk)

'Round Table' Speakers:

- **Olivia Knapton (King's College London, UK)**

Olivia is a PhD student in the Centre for Language, Discourse and Communication at King's College London. Her main interests lie in using approaches from cognitive semantics to carry out discourse analysis in various areas of health communication. At the workshop, she will present results from a Leverhulme Trust funded project investigating crisis communication during the floods in Gloucestershire in 2007. Focusing on media reports, this project explores patterns in risk communication that may have affected public compliance to health advice. She will also present ideas from her current PhD work, which makes a case for using cognitive linguistic analysis in the field of mental health. It is argued that analysis of the language used by those with mental health problems can provide evidence for the conceptualisations that maintain the disorders. olivia.knapton@kcl.ac.uk

◦ **Dr. Ekaterina Chown (University of Nottingham and University of Sheffield, UK)**

Ekaterina Chown is Lecturer in Russian at the University of Nottingham and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield. Her current research is focused on the influence of performance and rhetoric studies on the development of early Soviet linguistics during 1910s- early 1920s. She is particularly interested in the switch from linguistic formalism to functionalism which was partly initiated by Russian theatre professionals and later adopted by early Soviet linguists. They effectively rejected a 2-D model presenting a word as a rigid correlation between a phonetic/graphic form and a concept and suggested a 3-D module, where an additional dimension was constituted by sound and gesture as crucial utterance modifiers. This switch was not entirely original to Russia, but was rather a Russian resonance to the gradual rise of the functional approach to language studies in Europe, ranging from the research in Ohrenphilologie conducted by the Leipzig philological school to French studies in stage gesture and language phenomenology. The developed 3-D model of the word became particularly popular in the early Soviet rhetoric and agitation theory, with special attention being paid to the addressee/audience and the modality. Ekaterina is hoping to be able to test to what extent it can be mapped onto or be comparable with the Deictic Space Theory which will be discussed in the course of the workshop.

Another part of my research, admittedly, still in its embryonic stage, lies in the area of translation studies and contact linguistics. Ekaterina is interested in the way convergence theory works for related languages. She is wondering if DST can be applied in this case to interpret the language behaviour as the restoration of its time-modality-space coordinates which it has long outgrown.

◦ **Joanna Szostek (St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Joanna is working towards a DPhil in Politics at Oxford University. Her doctoral thesis is titled "Russia in the news of its neighbours: Cross-border connections and foreign affairs coverage in the Russian-language media of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova". The thesis investigates Moscow's ability to shape Russian-language print and TV news to its own advantage in the westernmost states of the former Soviet Union. It provides a detailed account of Russia's ongoing efforts to construct a 'single information space' in the CIS, and describes the legacy of cross-border media connections inherited from the USSR. The thesis then explores how such cross-border connections and Russian policy initiatives affect portrayals of Russia conveyed to mass audiences in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova via leading Russian-language news bulletins and newspapers. Findings are based on process tracing and the triangulation of multiple forms of evidence, including quantitative content analysis and interviews with journalists. joanna.szostek@sant.ox.ac.uk

- **Maria Repnikova (St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Maria is a 2nd year Doctoral Candidate in the DPIR, focusing on comparative politics of China and Russia. Specifically, she looks at the more critical media outlets and their interactions with their respective regimes. One of the important aspects of her research is linguistic analysis of media reports of government's management of natural and man-made disasters. While she has done extensive interviews and interview analysis (all qualitative) in the past, she is new to linguistic analysis. At the moment, she hopes to incorporate theoretical principles of critical discourse analysis, and employ framing analysis (and the discourses behind the frames) in her study of media reports. One of the integral parts of her linguistic analysis will be explaining what is omitted from discourse, and what might be the reasons behind it. Through examining the reports of more critical media she hopes to understand the ways in which criticism is expressed in the two countries, and engage with the differences and similarities. maria.repnikova@sant.ox.ac.uk

- **Kristen Perrin (University College London, UK)**

Kristen is currently a doctoral student in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) at UCL. Her research interests involve the former Yugoslavia, theories of genocide and the ICTY, with emphasis placed on the role the flow of information plays in decision making patterns. Her research seeks to examine the escalation of violence in genocide, ultimately asking 'to what extent does cohesion have a causal relationship with ethnic violence?'. She is examining transcripts from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) using a combination of social psychology, sociolinguistics, and linguistics to map the flow of information in violent escalations. She argues that where greater cohesion is present in homogenous groups, ethnic violence is more likely, because information failures between groups cause shifts in previously existing moral paradigms. Theories of communication are significant to her research because she hopes to further understand the way in which information flows can be catalysts for the perception of threat and precursors for violent behaviours. kristen.perrin.10@ucl.ac.uk

Participants (Alphabetical)

- **Amelia Abercrombie (University College London, UK)**

Amelia Abercrombie is currently doing an MRes East European Studies at SSEES, UCL. Her current project is on life history among Roma in Serbia, but she also has a strong interest in Balkan linguistics and would like one day to pursue a PhD focusing on anthropology of multilingualism in Kosovo. amelia.abercrombie.09@ucl.ac.uk

- **Dr. Diane Thompson (Darwin College, University of Cambridge, UK)**

Dr Diane Thompson is a Lecturer at the Department of Slavonic Studies. Diane Thompson's research interests are in nineteenth-century Russian literature; Dostoevsky; and Poetics in general. Her publications include *The Brothers Karamazov and the Poetics of Memory* (Cambridge, 1991) and a number of articles on Dostoevsky, among other, an article 'Dostoevsky and Science' in *The Cambridge Companion to Dostoevsky* (CUP, 2002). She was a contributor to and advisory editor for the volume: *Cultural Discontinuity and Reconstruction: the Byzonto-Slav heritage and the creation of a Russian national literature in the nineteenth century*, edited by Jostein Bortnes and Ingunn Lunde (Oslo, 1997). She co-edited with George Pattison a collection of conference essays entitled *Dostoevsky and the Christian Tradition* (CUP, 2001).

- **Dr. Jan Fellerer (Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Jan Fellerer is a University Lecturer in Non-Russian Slavonic Languages and a Fellow of Wolfson College. He works on the history of the Polish, Czech and Ukrainian languages with special reference to the modern period from the late 18th century to the present day. His main fields of interest in Slavonic philology include syntax, socio-historical linguistics and textual semantics. jan.fellerer@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

- **Robert Harris, (New College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Robert Harris specialises in nineteenth-century Russian intellectual history. He is particularly interested in linguistic shifts, and the role of close textual analysis to tease out



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changes in meaning. He is currently working on Herzen and the impact of German idealist philosophy on his notion of political reform and regime change. robertharrisoxford@hotmail.com

- **Monika Kreile (Linacre College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Monika Kreile is an MPhil student in Linguistics and she is just beginning her thesis, "Reference to socio-political entities and kinds", where she investigates the names of nations and nationalities as proper names and natural kind terms. She is also interested in the semantics of slurs and other expressives. Monika.kreile@linacre.ox.ac.uk

- **Nina Kruglikova, (Trinity College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Nina Kruglikova gained a first class degree in English Philology from Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia in 2001 and an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford in 2003. Before embarking on a DPhil at the School of Geography and the Environment, she obtained a doctorate in linguistics and worked as an Associate Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages in her home university. She worked as a researcher for the ESRC-funded project on Russian views of sustainable development and acted as an expert and proof reader for the Russian version of the Climate Change Office Synthesis Report "Climate Change: Global Challenges, Risks and Responses". In 2003 she was a research assistant for Oxford Inspires, Science and Sustainability Group, and had an internship in the GLOBE UK, All-party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Development at the Houses of Parliament. She is a regular participant in international conferences and a freelance translator/interpreter. Her interests include cognitive linguistics in critical discourse analysis; environmental discourse. nina.kruglikova@gmail.com

- **Cezar Macarie (University College London, UK)**

Cesar Macarie is doing an MRes East European Studies at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, UCL. Previously, he researched about Self-development through martial arts. Currently, his research interests lie in the area of migration and commercial sex, focusing on East European sex workers travelling and working at the margins, in the UK. iulius-cezar.macarie.10@ucl.ac.uk

- **Professor Rosalind Marsh, (University of Bath, UK)**

Rosalind Marsh has been Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Bath since 1991, and from 1994-7 she was also Director of the Centre for Women's Studies at the University. From 1997 to 2001 she was President of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), and she is now Vice-President. From 1999 to 2001 I was also Chair of the Association of Heads of Russian.

Her academic career began as a student at Newnham College, Cambridge, and she then went on to do postgraduate work at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Her first job was as Lecturer in the Department of Slavonic Studies at The Queen's University of Belfast from 1977-87, and I then moved to the Department of Russian at the University of Exeter, where I became Director of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies. As far as language interests go, she teaches Russian language at all levels, but most of her original language materials are connected with final-year and Postgraduate Russian-English translation. She is also getting particularly interested in socio-linguistics, and has written a little bit about the attempted control of the Russian language by the Putin regime in my latest book. Her other developing interests are in perceived 'political correctness', and on the other side, gender and ethnic stereotypes fostered by language, particularly in right-wing 'patriotic' Russian prose and political discourse.

She is currently putting together an interdisciplinary book on 'Contemporary Russia: Sources of Stability and Change'. Another book which is almost finished is 'New Women's Writing in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe: Gender, Generation and Identities'. mlsrjm@bath.ac.uk

- **Elena Minina (St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Elena Minina is a third year doctoral student at the Department of Education and a mid-career professional in the area of International and Comparative Education. Her research interests include Russian education modernization reform, education reform in post-conflict settings, Discourse Analysis, and Frame Analysis elena.minina@education.ox.ac.uk

- **Maria Pasholok (Magdalen College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Maria Pasholok is a second year DPhil student in Modern Languages writing about the representation of interior space in early Soviet cinema and literature (1910-1920s). She is also a freelance journalist writing mostly on cinema/theatre/arts.



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- **Dr. Rachel Polonsky, University of Cambridge, UK**

Rachel Polonsky was a Research and Teaching Fellow at Emmanuel College until 1998, when she moved to Moscow. She supervised students taking the English Tripos as well as Modern Linguists, and lectured for the Slavonic Department. In Moscow, where she lived for ten years, she worked as an independent scholar and freelance writer. Her scholarly interests include nineteenth and twentieth century poetry, fiction, and memoir, often with a comparative emphasis, and the place of Russian literature in the overlapping contexts of cultural, intellectual, and political history. She is a frequent contributor to the Times Literary Supplement among other periodicals

- **Dr. Natalia Rulyova (University of Birmingham, UK)**

Natalia Rulyova is Lecturer in Russian at CREES, the University of Birmingham. She joined CREES in July 2006, having previously worked as Lecturer in Russian and Research Associate on the project Post-Soviet Television Culture led by Prof. Stephen Hutchings at the University of Surrey. Her current research focuses on contemporary Russian culture, Russian mass media and new media. Her other research interests lie in the area of translation studies, post-1945 Russian literature, and Joseph Brodsky's poetry and self-translations. n.e.rulyova@bham.ac.uk

- **Eleanor Ryan (University College of London, UK)**

Eleanor is doing an MRes East European Studies at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, UCL.

- **Dmitry Shatalov (Jesus College, University of Oxford, UK)**

Dmitry Shatalov graduated from the University of Voronezh in translation studies (and linguistics) and is now doing a DPhil in metaphorical conceptualization of translation into English and Russian from the sixteenth century to the present. He is interested in cognitive linguistics, translation studies, and metaphor theory. dmitry.shatalov@jesus.ox.ac.uk

- **Max Stanford (St Antony's College, University of Oxford, UK)**



Max Stanford is a second year MPhil student of Russian and Eastern European Studies at the University of Oxford .

- **Eszter Tarsoly, University College London, UK**

Eszter Tarsoly is a Teaching Fellow in Hungarian at UCL SSEES. Her primary interests are in language contact, language standardisation, attitudes towards language, and cognitive linguistics. As a teacher of Hungarian and English, she is also interested in grammar writing, and teaching methods of modern languages. She is currently working on a graded reader of Hungarian for ab-initio research-focused learners, which is supported by CEELBAS. tarsolyeszter@yahoo.co.uk

- **Dana Vilistere (Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK)**

Dana is an MPhil/PhD student at Oxford Brookes University. The title of her thesis is "Core Conceptual Scheme in Strawson's Philosophy and Contemporary Debates in Cognitive Sciences". Her research is focused on the question about the general structural features of our thought and language (and its realization in speech) about the world and ourselves which are common to all people despite the fact that they do belong to different language communities and do represent diverse backgrounds or cultures.

CEELBAS is a consortium of 10 leading UK universities, launched in 2006 as part of the UK Funding Councils' Language-Based Area Studies Initiative:



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