

Landslide working seminar 8 April 2008

Seminar rooms 350 and 216 (from 13), Faculty of Arts, 10:15–15:00

Present: Martin, Tine, Ingunn; Brita (from 13:00)

Agenda

- 1) Reports on work in progress and exchange of information
- 2) Workshop 16 May 2008
- 3) Work in progress presentations

Details

1. Reports on work in progress and exchange of information

Since our last working seminar was in September, there was a lot to report.

Martin summed up his 5 months stay in Passau (October 07–February 08) by stating that both the research and the teaching part of it had been of great benefit to his work. In addition to his Helsinki (Perestroika conference, 29.11.–1.12.07) and Passau (L4) papers, he has given a presentation of the introduction to his thesis in a department seminar at Passau. Back in Bergen, he has had his last meeting with the publishing house Solum about his translation of Vasil Bykaw's novel *Sotnikaw*, and the novel will appear in print in August. He is now busy writing his doctoral thesis. Besides, he has been commissioned by the journal *Vagant* to write a review of several Scandinavian thematic issues on contemporary Russian literature (the Swedish *Ord & Bild* [5, 2007], the Danish *Legenda* [2, 2006]). He has also submitted an article based on the Helsinki paper to the journal *Studies in East European Thought*, which has been accepted for publication. On April 28, he will present his "vitenskapsteoretisk innlegg" (a required part (paper) of the PhD programme), and September 22 or 23, i.e. immediately after the final Landslide conference, the Research School of Linguistics and Philology will organise a masterclass for him, with Lara Ryazanova-Clarke acting as the master. Martin also reported about Peter Normann Waage's plans about establishing a series for the publication of Norwegian translations of contemporary Russian literature, and finished by presenting his time schedule for work on, and completion of, his thesis.

Tine has, beside her Helsinki and Passau papers, given guest lectures in Århus and Copenhagen on the reception history of *Deti Arbata*. She has submitted an article on the use of brackets in Makanin's *Andegraund* to *Scando-Slavica*, which has been accepted for publication. She has written several reviews, both for *Nordisk Østforum* and for *Information* (for the latter also a short article in connection with the launching of the thematic issue on Post-Soviet Russian identity of *Den jyske historiker* (February 2008), where her article on contemporary Russian literature was published). She is also working on her translation of a Slapovsky novel. Her paper proposal for AAASS in Philadelphia in November has been accepted, and she will in addition be chairing another panel. During the remaining time of her postdoc position (until July 2008), she plans to write an article based on her Alphabet project (L2 paper) and prepare her papers for L5 and AAASS.

Ingunn participated at the Helsinki conference by chairing the Landslide panel. In November and December she finished the editing of *Terminal Øst: Totalitære og posttotalitære diskurser* together with Susanna Witt, and also typeset and proof-read the books of Knut A. Grimstad and Jostein Børtnes (volumes 7 and 8 of *Slavica Bergensia*). In addition to her L4 Passau paper, she gave a guest lecture in German in Passau on January 9th. Her article on the current language situation in Russia appeared in *Den jyske historiker* in February 2008. She organised a double book launch for *Slavica Bergensia* 7 and 8 on February 4; by the end of February, two of her MA students (within the Landslide project) successfully defended their MA dissertations. After Passau, Ingunn has written the introductory chapter of her planned monograph on linguistic reflection in Post-Soviet Russia. Also, she has published a short review of Sorokin's *Den' oprichnika* in *Morgenbladet*. She furthermore spent some time preparing for a larger interview by the same newspaper on the Russian intelligentsia which appeared on March 7. On March 5, 2008, *Terminal Øst* was launched with a multimedia seminar presenting video and film clips, music, texts, posters and much more connected to the topic of the book. The book launch was attended by some 25 people and has been published on the internet (<http://www.hf.uib.no/i/russisk/landslide/terminalost.html>). Ingunn has also been busy planning the L5 conference (16–20 September 2008, 19 participants), organising the Landslide events of this spring (two guest research visits, two guest lecturers) and planning the guest lectures for the fall semester. She is now working on her Passau paper on "Pisateli o iazyke" in order to submit it to the RLJ's special issue on language culture in Post-Soviet Russia. Also, she is working on a revision of her paper on Popov (L2). 15 April she will participate in a plenary debate on research administration at the U of Bergen. 21–26 May she will go to St Petersburg for the 10th anniversary seminar at the Norwegian University Centre with a paper entitled "How to deal with linguistic diversity". She plans to write most of her L5 and Cambridge (see below) papers in June. Martin, Dirk, Lara and Ingunn sent a panel proposal for the Fourth Fitzwilliam Colloquium in Cambridge 27–29 August 2008 ("Media in Flux: Information Technologies in Russian Culture"), and we have just been informed that it has been accepted.

Brita's postdoctoral position ended February 1, 2008. She now has a temporary teaching position in the department.

2) Workshop 16 May 2008

16 May 2008 we will organise a small workshop with the participation of Michael Gorham and Alexei Yurchak. Members of the Landslide core group will present work in progress. Also, Jardar Østbø (PhD student, UiB) will give a presentation of his PhD project or a chapter of it. We briefly discussed our plans for this meeting.

[12-13: Lunch]

3) Work in progress presentations (and discussions)

1. Tine: how can we study the phenomenon of literary prizes? An introduction to Mieke Bal's understanding of "cultural studies" (in *Travelling Concepts*) and her

concept of “framing.”

Martin: presentation of two 10pp-chapters from his doctoral thesis: the literary critics’ discussion of language and the language question in their reception of a) Viktor Erofeev’s *Russkaja krasavitsa* and b) Vladimir Sorokin’s *Norma + Roman*.

Ingunn: presentation of revised Passau paper on “Pisateli o iazyke: Contemporary Russian Writers on the Language Question.”

On Monday 7 April, Daniela Hristova (Chicago) arrived for a one month’s stay as guest researcher. On Tuesday, 8 April, Birgit Menzel (Mainz) came for three days, giving a guest lecture on Wednesday 9: *Clash of Reading Cultures: Writing, reading and selling literature in Russia in the 1990s*. We had lunch after the lecture. On Wednesday evening we gathered, as usual, at Ingunn’s place for dinner. On Thursday, Daniela gave the first of her two Bergen lectures on *anekdoty: How many zeroes are there in two million? A jokelore portrait of the New Russians*. Both lectures were well attended, and Brita brought her class (20 people) for the last one.

/IL 12 April 2008