

## **Landslide working seminar 6 March 2007**

Ingunn's office, 10:00–15:00

Present: Martin, Brita, Tine, Ingunn

### **Agenda**

- 1) Reports on work in progress and exchange of information
- 2) Presentations/comparisons 1920s—1990s
- 3) Evaluation of the post-tot conference
- 4) Plans for the next working seminar, 10 May 2007; plans for the Autumn 2007; suggestions for guest lecturers

### **Details**

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

Martin has written his post-tot presentation and continued to work on his “vitenskapsteoretisk innlegg” (a required part of the PhD programme), he has also taken part in a two-day seminar for PhD students within the framework of the Research school in Linguistics and Philology, as well as in a seminar on literary sociology in Paris; Brita has written her post-tot presentation and has also been working on her various papers and guest lectures planned for Edinburgh, Cambridge and Glasgow; she will go to Edinburgh in less than a week and stay there for three months; Tine has written her paper for, and organized, the [post-tot conference 26-27 January](#) and also started to work on her paper for the Moscow conference (on Makanin). She has also been in contact with various Danish publishers and is eager to kindle their interest in contemporary Russian literature. Ingunn has written her post tot presentation and been busy with the conference organization. After the conference, she has, together with Sanna Witt, read the new article proposals for the post-tot book, and selected the papers which will be included in the book (17). Besides, she has started to work on her Moscow and Edinburgh papers and been busy with the organization of the [symposium in honour of Jostein Børtnes](#). She was involved with the [BFS finalists](#) interviews in week 5, and has been reading and annotating two manuscripts for Slavica Bergensia, Knut A. Grimstad's book on Leskov and Brita's book on Pasternak. She has also given a brief talk on the writing of grant proposals for the Faculty of Arts.

We were very happy to have Liudmila Zubova staying in Bergen one month in January-February. During her stay, Liudmila gave two guest lectures: 1. Новое в русском языке после перестройки (15.01.07); 2. Конфликт между системой и нормой в русском языке (25.01.07), and also participated in a seminar for the MA students in the project, discussing their individual MA theses.

Ingunn gave an update on the Edinburgh papers (titles).

Robert Porter (Bristol/Glasgow) gave a guest lecture on “The Paradoxes of Parody: Notes on the Art of Mikhail Zoshchenko and Evgenii Popov” on March 5, 2007.

## **2. Presentations/comparisons 1920s—1990s**

The main topic of this working seminar were comparative discussions of particular themes in the 1920s and 1990s, that is, each participant presented a theme and discussed possible parallels between the 20s and the 90s. This kind of typological juxtaposition turned out to be most useful and interesting.

Brita: “The OBERIU poets Kharms and Zabolotsky as forerunners for the Conceptualists (Prigov, in particular)”

Martin: “Literary criticism in the 1920s and 1980s (a presentation and discussion of Menzel’s book)”

Tine: “Zamiatin — and literature of the 1990s which challenge the utopian legacy by linguistic creativity and literary experimentation”

Ingunn: “Language and Revolution: On typical explanatory models in the linguistic literature of the 1920s (Selishchev, Vinokur, Polivanov et al) and the 1990s”

## **3. Evaluation of the posttot conference**

The conference was apparently a great success. It would have been good to have conference locations with more space for mingling during the breaks. Also, as we knew already beforehand, the ideal number of papers would have been 20 instead of 23 (in two days).

## **4. Plans**

Georg Witte (Berlin) will give a guest lecture on Wednesday, May 9, 2007. There will be a working seminar on May 10, where we will present and discuss our Moscow papers (which should be written as articles already for the conference) and present our plans for the Edinburgh papers.

For the autumn of 2007 we plan 3 working seminars, one primo September (while Dirk and Lena are here), one ultimo October and one primo December. Suggestions for guest lecturers (Alexei Yurchak (Spring 2008), Yngvar Steinholt (Autumn 2007?), Birgit Menzel (Spring 2008). Martin will spend three months in Passau from 15 October 2007.

/Ingunn  
(08.03.2007)