

## Understanding Russia: critical reflections on method, practice and knowledge creation

Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, 26-27 November 2009

### PROGRAMME

#### THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2009

0930-10.00 - **Coffee**

10.00-10.15 – **Introduction**

10.15-11.15 – **Keynote – Dr Lynne Attwood (University of Manchester)**, Thirty years with a notebook and a Russian/English dictionary: a personal tale of one Western researcher's experiences in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia

11.15-11.30 – **Coffee**

11.30-13.30 – **Session 1: Method and Practice**

**Commentators: Katalin Miklossy & Jonathan Oldfield**

**Martin Calvert** (University of Glasgow), Considerations on researcher otherness and provisional truth through an examination of online and offline methodologies with reference to the Russian blogosphere

**Elisabeth Schimpfoessl** (University of Manchester), Interviewing the social upper class in Russia

**Susanna Hast** (Aleksanteri Institute), Genealogy of sphere of influence and Russia's foreign policy

13.30-14.30 – **Lunch**

14.30-16.30 – **Session 2: Negotiating research boundaries**

**Commentators: Nina Tynkkynen & Jonathan Oldfield**

**Kaarina Aitamurto** (Aleksanteri Institute), Researching contemporary paganism in Russia

**Kimberly Lukin** (University of Helsinki), Challenges in evaluating Russian operational network systems

**Holly Porteous** (University of Glasgow), Insiders/Outsiders: positioning the inexperienced researcher in the context of their first fieldwork projects in Russia

16.30-17.30 – **Keynote – Professor Tuomas Forsberg (University of Tampere)**, To study Russian foreign policy: Rationality and psychology

17.30-17.45 - **Coffee**

17.45-19.45 – **Session 3: Reflections on 'doing' foreign policy research**

**Commentators: Tuomas Forsberg & Vikki Turbine**

**James Brown** (University of Aberdeen), A stereotype, wrapped in a cliché, inside a dogma? An orientalist critique of literature on Russian foreign policy

**Nina Tynkkynen** (University of Tampere), Environmental policy, international relations and Russian studies: coping with methodological choices

**Suvi Kansikas** (Aleksanteri Institute), Problems in researching Soviet foreign policy

20.00 – Evening meal

## **FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2009**

09.30-10.00 - **Coffee**

10.00-12.00 – **Session 4: Language and communication**

**Commentators: Natalia Baschmakoff & Lynne Attwood**

**Vadim Chupasov** (University of Tampere), Russian historical science fiction: understanding the formulas

**Ira Jänis-Isokangas** (University of Tampere), Power and resistance: Soviet discussion on hooliganism during NEP

**Iлона Manevskaya** (University of Manchester), Tibetan medicine in post-communist Russia: How to study inter-cultural communication in a transitional society

11.30-12.30 – **Keynote – Dr Vikki Turbine (University of Glasgow)**, The tensions and contributions of conducting cross-cultural feminist research: reflections from research on women's human rights in contemporary Russia

12.30-13.30 – **Lunch**

13.30-14.30 – **Keynote – Professor Natalia Baschmakoff (University of Joensuu)**, Recalling and Interpreting Experience

14.30 - 15.00 **Close**