



Transformation Group Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 DECEMBER 2005

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A RUSSIAN ROMANCE

Tania Konn writes:

My father and grandfather were born in St. Petersburg as were my great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather. My grandfather lived to the age of 97 so I knew him well. He had an excellent memory and told me many stories about the life of my family in the city prior to the Russian Revolution of 1917. My father left Russia at the age of ten with his parents in 1920. Despite living in exile they remained proudly Russian. My father and paternal grandparents always spoke to me in Russian and in this way passed on Russian culture

and customs to me - as well as a profound love for the country and for the city of St.Petersburg.

I have visited Russia and St.Petersburg many times. In St.Petersburg I have seen the birthplace of my father and grandfather, the church they attended, the places they knew and loved. It has made me feel close to them.

I also have relatives living in St.Petersburg at present. I met my cousins for the first time only two years ago.

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Tania Konn, Head of the Russian and East European Collections at Glasgow University Library



Guri Lubimovich Kon and his wife, Olga Ivanovna, my great grandparents. My great grandfather was born in 1852 and died in 1925



My grandmother, Elena Nikodimovna Ivanova-Divova. She was born in 1893 and died in 1964



Sergei Vladimirovich Ivanov-Divov, my step-grandfather, in the uniform of the Cossack Guards. He was born in 1890 and died in 1973

The Transformation Group brings together members of the Department of whatever status who take a primary or at least substantial interest in the process of political change in Eastern Europe, the former USSR and China.



A RUSSIAN ROMANCE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

My great-grandfather, Guri Lubimovich, graduated from St.Petersburg University and worked in St.Petersburg as a school teacher. My grandfather, Anatoli Gurievich, was a graduate of the Konstantinovskiy Artillery School and the Alexandrovskiy Military Law Academy. He was Head of department at the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief of the Western Front armies and a senior officer at the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces in the south of Russia.

With special affection I recall my father. He was a charismatic man who loved writing poetry. Dmitry Anatolievich graduated from



My grandfather, Anatoli Gurievich. He was born in 1886 and died in 1983



My mother, Edith Margaret Konn (nee Fotheringham). She was born in 1910 and died in 1988



My father, Dmitri Anatol'evich Konn. He was born in 1910 and died in 1989

Edinburgh University. He had a long and varied service record. He was the chief accountant for the government of Sudan,

the chief accountant at the Suez Canal, a government official in Great Britain, a university professor in Egypt and Libya and

died in Athens. My mother, a Scottish teacher from Edinburgh, died only a few months before her husband.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES: A CASE STUDY OF BELARUS

Julia Korosteleva is a research assistant in Politics, working on an ESRC-funded project on EU and NATO enlargement and its implications for Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. She writes here about her PhD thesis, submitted recently at the University of Bath.

Belarus is a small country and is not of much interest from the point of view of playing a major role in shaping the world political economy. It is not a resource-rich country like, for example, Russia; its population is four times smaller than Ukraine's; its GDP makes only a minimal contribution to the total world economy; and it presents little strategic threat to the international community. Indeed, few ordinary people living in the West know about Belarus. Many view it as a

part of Russia. Others recognise it only when it comes to discussing the worst heritage of Soviet times – Chernobyl – or for its being governed by 'the last dictator of Europe' – Alexander Lukashenko. Yet interest in Belarus has grown recently among economists, puzzled by high rates of economic growth in a country that, unlike the majority of the former Soviet economies, did not follow the conventional transition path and hardly reformed its economy.

While explanations of this 'miracle' abound, no empirical work has been undertaken on the role of the financial system in economic growth, particularly on the effects of pervasive government inter-

vention in the financial system. My doctoral research examines the financial development of Belarus over the past decade with a particular focus on 1996-2000, when functioning of the financial sector was restrained through pervasive controls introduced by the government. Monetary stimulation of investment activity through low interest rates and directed credit and preferential loans schemes has been argued to contribute to the revival of growth in the late 1990s to a significant extent. Thus, in the first place, financial policy was expected to exert a positive impact on growth through financial deepening, increasing the share of savings to be allocated

to investment. But has it done so?

My study reveals that the Belarusian experience of financial repression had an overall negative effect on financial development, resulting in shallow finance and financial intermediaries playing a passive role in the development process over the period of investigation. The policy of money-led stimulation of the economy triggered an inflationary spiral, leading to demonetisation and the unofficial dollarisation of the economy. The policy of low interest rates discouraged savings, one of the main sources of financing enterprises in Belarus. Ultimately, Belarusian financial policy has proved inefficient and unable to target long-run growth objectives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

In his doctoral research Katsuto Furusawa examines postmaterialist values and democratisation in Russia, Japan, the USA and Britain. Katsuto's research interests include quantitative analysis of public attitudes on participation, governmental responsiveness, and civic protest; comparative analysis of democratic attitudes between post-communist and West European societies (with some reference to East Asian counterparts); and issues of cultural particularity versus postmaterialist/modernisation effects on democratic attitudes. He is currently working on an article, 'Participation and Protest in the EU and the "Outsiders"' as a part of UACES Study Group project 'The EU and the "Outsiders": Is There a Values Gap?'

Ayse Artun contributed a book review to 'Regional Issues in Polish Politics' edited by Tomasz Zarycki and George Kolankiewicz, *Slovo*, Vol. 16.2, 2004.

In October 2005 a number of new PhD students joined the Department of Politics.

Valentina Feklyunina is a graduate of Saratov State University, Russian Federation. Valentina is working under Professor Stephen White's supervision on 'International Image of Russia as a Factor in the Democratization Process: Choosing between Democracy and Authoritarianism'. In her thesis she will be looking at the ways the image of Russia is used by Western countries in their relations with it, and the effects of this on the democratization process. Her work will involve studying the geopolitical perceptions of the Russian political elite, examining the existing image of the country in the West, and analysing the Kremlin's reaction to Western criticism.

Daniel Hammond began his undergraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh in 1998, graduating with a MA (Hons) in Politics and Modern History in 2002. Afterwards, he completed a Master's in Chinese

Studies at the University of Edinburgh and Glasgow which ran from 2002-2004. After a year working in market research he came back to academic study to begin his PhD at Glasgow University. His research is on the policy making process in the People's Republic of China. Although still exploring options he hopes to link the literature on policy making in the political sciences with the China specific literature to date. Having examined the applicability of one of the frameworks to the Chinese case he hopes to test that framework in the social welfare policy sector or a sub-sector.

Tom Johnson's first degree was a BA in American Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea. He spent the summer before his final year teaching English in China at a private language school in the northeastern city of Dalian. The experience of being in China was so positive that he decided to return after completing his BA, in order to study the language and see more of the country. After one year he returned to the UK and started a two-year master's degree in Chinese Studies, taught jointly between the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. As part of the course he was sent to China for 6 months. This time he went to Beijing and was an intern at the Delegation of the European Commission, working mostly on bilateral EU-China trade issues.

Immediately after finishing his master's degree, he started a PhD at Glasgow. He examines environmental politics in China, with an emphasis on how actors outside the state bureaucracy (including multilateral / bilateral organisations and international NGOs) are currently influencing the environmental policymaking process in China. He plans to go to China next year in order to carry out some primary research.



Valentina Feklyunina



Danniell Hammond



Tom Johnson

TEMPORARY STAFF

Chris Ogden's research interests include fear creation, threat perception, strategic culture, self and other, national identity, Indian foreign policy and East Asian international relations. After a period at the universities of Sheffield and Durham, he is currently undertaking PhD study at the University of Edinburgh concerning cultural fear and the role it plays in identity formation, along with ideas of perception and power in international relations. The specific focus of the study will be Indian foreign policy and its internal and external dynamics.

PRESENTATIONS

William L. Miller & Jane Duckett presented a paper on 'Development and decline: a Comparison of Public Attitudes towards Economic and cultural Openness in East Europe and East Asia' at the ICCEES VII World Congress, Berlin (July 2005).

Jane Duckett & Wil-

liam L. Miller also presented a paper on 'Public Attitudes toward Anti-globalization Protest in the Developing World: A Study of the Czech Republic, South Korea, Ukraine and Vietnam' at the ECPR Annual Conference in Budapest (Sept 2005).

Stephen White presented a paper, 'A wider Europe: the public dimension' at the ICCEES VII World Congress, Berlin (July 2005). He also presented papers at the National Democratic Institute in Washington DC, at the Third World Public Forum on Rhodes, at the

AAASS in Salt Lake City, and at smaller conferences in Glasgow and St Andrews.

At the Congress in Berlin Derek Hutcheson and Julia A. Korosteleva presented papers on 'Participation in post-communist Europe' and 'The Belarusian case of transition: whither financial repression?' respectively.

STAFF NEWS

Derek Hutcheson is leaving the University of Glasgow at the end of December, having been here in various capacities since 1998. From January 2006 onwards he will be a Lecturer in Comparative Politics in the School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin, John Henry Newman Building, Belfield, Dublin 4, IRELAND. His e-mail is likely to be Derek.Hutcheson@ucd.ie.

PUBLICATIONS

William L. Miller's recent publications include 'From Last Empress to First Minister' in W.L. Miller (ed) *Anglo-Scottish Relations from 1900 to Devolution and Beyond—Proceedings of the British Academy 128* (2005).

Asifa Hussain and William L. Miller's work on 'The Auld enemy in the New Scotland' was published in the same volume.

Asifa Hussain & William Miller also published 'Anglophobia & Islamophobia in post-devolution Scotland' in Catherine Bromley, John Curtice, David McCrone and Alison Park (eds) *Has Devolution Delivered? The New Scotland Four Years On* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2005).

Stephen White published articles in *International Politics, the Journal of Communist Studies and Transition*

Politics, and Communist and Post-Communist Studies and two papers in *Europe-Asia Studies*, one on the 'Putin court' and the other drawing on recent focus groups to explore Russian political disengagement. He also contributed chapters to two edited collections.

Various past and pre-

sent members of the Department are included in a book published this month by Routledge: Derek S. Hutcheson and Elena A. Korosteleva (eds), *The Quality of Democracy in Post-Communist Europe* (London/New York: Routledge, 2006). This is a slightly revised version of a volume that was previously published as a special issue of the *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*.

GRANTS

Derek Hutcheson has been awarded a two-year grant by the British Academy (£7,979) into 'Political Participation, Disengagement and Re-Engagement in Post-Communist Russia and Germany'. It commenced in July 2005 and will run to June 2007. The German part of the project involves co-operation with the Institute for German Studies at the Ruhr University Bochum.

VISITS ABROAD

Jane Duckett visited China over the summer contributing (as a consultant) to the DfID-funded Sino-British Unemployment Insurance Project. This involved participating in workshops in Beijing and Liaoning (Shenyang) in June, and meeting with officials handling unemployment insurance work in three cities in Sichuan in August as preparation for a policy brief for the project.

Stephen White was in Kyiv in September, with his two project colleagues, for elite interviews and a focus group (he also made his Ukrainian television debut), and was in Moscow again in October.