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The status, role and future of Russian language training and Slavonic studies in the Scottish education system

Scotland-Russia Institute, 9 South College Street, Edinburgh,
1pm-5pm, Monday 28th May, 2012

Entry is free. All welcome. As places are limited, please email Jon Oldfield if you are intending to join the workshop, Jonathan.Oldfield@glasgow.ac.uk

Training and education in Russian language and Slavonic studies remain tenuous within the UK education system. The recent investment in higher education language-based area studies (LBAS) via research council and, in the case of CRCEES, Scottish government funding, gave the subject area a significant boost and yet it is not clear whether this targeted support will extend beyond 2014/16.

This workshop is framed by an 18 month AHRC-funded Research Networking initiative, 'Translating Russian and East European Cultures,' which is exploring the multiple ways in which such cultures are translated, constructed and narrated within the multi-disciplinary and multicultural context of Russian, Central and East European Studies.

The workshop has the following main aims:

1. To examine the current status of teaching and training concerning the Russian language and Slavonic studies in the UK, and particularly the Scottish, education system.
2. To consider the potential value of such teaching and training within the context of the UK education system as well as UK society more broadly.
3. To reflect upon existing initiatives for furthering and advancing learning and understanding related to Russian language and culture within the UK.
4. To determine purposeful ways in which to bolster the status and sustainability of Russian, and Slavonic studies more broadly, within the UK/Scottish education system.

The workshop will consist of a series of short impulse-style papers aimed from a range of specialists followed by discussion.



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Preliminary programme:

1300-1400 – Lunch

1400-1405 - *Katarzyna Kosmala/Jon Oldfield*, Introduction

1405-1530 – Session 1: Russian language teaching within the Scottish education system

Chair: ***Jon Oldfield***, Central & East European Studies, University of Glasgow

Martin Dewhirst, *Honorary Research Fellow, University of Glasgow*, 'How to improve and increase the teaching of Russian in Scotland'

Jenny Carr, *Chairperson, Scotland-Russia Forum*, 'How the SRF is trying to reverse the decline of school Russian in Scotland'

Simon Macaulay, *Chair, Languages Working Group, Scottish Government*, 'Some reflections on Russian language provision in Scotland'

--Coffee--

1545-1700 – Session 2: Russian studies and the UK education sector

Chair: ***Katarzyna Kosmala***, Centre for Contemporary European Studies, University of the West of Scotland

Jon Oldfield, *Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow*, Slavonic studies in the UK: a brief historical overview

Clare McManus, *Co-Director of the Centre for Russian & East European Studies (CRCEES), University of Glasgow*, 'Reflections on the current work and future initiatives of CRCEES and the Language-Based Area Studies (LBAS) initiative'

Nina Kruglikova, *Russian Centre (Russkiy Mir Program), University of Oxford*, 'The work of the Russkiy Mir Program in the UK'

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