

## artsmethods@manchester Event Report

### Crafting a “*Russkiy Mir*” [“Russian World”]: Russia's Cultural Policies in its Neighbourhood

*Date: May 24, 2017; Location: Simon 4.38 (morning), Chemistry G.09 (afternoon)*

The one day symposium hosted by Russian and Eurasian Studies Network with the support of artsmethods@manchester brought together a multidisciplinary group of researchers focusing on present day post-Soviet space. This event explored political, social, and cultural issues concerning the region, and stimulated a multidisciplinary exploration of developments in it. Broad concepts of biopolitics, strategic narratives, historical memory, and imagined national identity formed the overarching theoretical framework for a variety of papers on questions of domestic and foreign policy, soft power, discourse production, and cultural exports.

The day opened with two keynote papers delivered by international guests of the event, Dr Alexandra Yatsyk and Dr Sofia Tipaldou. The panel, consisting of the presenters and session Chair Dr Precious Chatterje-Doody, then engaged in a discussion with the audience of the event. Another external guests of the symposium, Dr Paul Richardson, delivered his presentation in the afternoon session. The rest of the programme was filled with presentations by current PGR students in the Graduate School of Arts, Languages and Cultures Connell Beggs, Adelaide Mcginity-Peebles, Marco Biasioli, Vitaly Kazakov, and Batir Xasanov. The programme of the symposium finished with a roundtable discussion summarizing the common themes and questions across the presentations, and also explored various opportunities for disseminating research showcased through the event and possible group outputs. Please see the attached programme of the event for further details.

The event was a great opportunity for professional development and further inspiration for research for all participating PGRs, as well as members of the PGR community in the audience. Delivering papers at this symposium allowed participating PhD students to get further experience in presenting their research in the conference setting, together with further training in developing abstracts and writing papers, presenting, and exchanging in an academic discussion on the broader themes addressed in the symposium. This event allowed the participants to get feedback on the research projects presented, and develop the presented papers into a draft journal article. Additionally, the event was a networking opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with fellow researchers across the Faculty, as well as with the participants, visiting from other institutions within the UK and from abroad.

In terms of practical outputs of the event, the participants are now in consultation to advance and disseminate the work completed in preparation for and during the symposium. Specifically, the first option explored is a joint publication of papers presented as a cluster in or a special issue of an academic journal. One opportunity evaluated is a cluster publication of papers with a focus on visual material and films in *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*. The other option currently under further investigation is a general-public facing poster exhibition based on the papers presented in the symposium to take place in the fall semester, coinciding with a Russian and East European Studies event dedicated to the anniversary of the October Revolution in Russia.

All the participants and guests of the event shared their appreciation of the opportunity to meet in the format of the hosted symposium. It is certain that without the administrative and financial support provided by [artsmethods@manchester](mailto:artsmethods@manchester), this event would not be possible.