

OXFORD RUSSIA FUND
SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH FICTION, 2017
Perm State University, 12th-13th September 2017

Participants:

Co-directors: Karen Hewitt (University of Oxford)

Professor Boris Proskurnin (Perm State University)

From Britain:

Dr Scarlett Baron (University College, London)

Dr Jenny Bavidge (University of Cambridge)

Dr Nicholas McGuinn (University of York)

From Russia and Belarus

Participants from:

Arkhangelsk Northern Arctic Federal University; **Barnaul** Altai Pedagogical University; Altai State University; **Belgorod** State University, **Birobidzhan** Far Eastern Academy, **Blagoveshchensk** Pedagogical University; **Bryansk** State University; **Chelyabinsk** State University; South Urals Pedagogical University; Chelyabinsk Russian Academy of Education; Chelyabinsk Institute of Management; **Chita:** Zabaikalsky State University; **Ekaterinburg:** Ural Federal University; Ural Pedagogical University; **Gomel (Belarus)** State University; **Irkutsk** Irkutsk State University; **Ivanovo** State University; **Izhevsk** Udmurt State University; **Kemerovo** State University; **Khabarovsk:** Pacific National University; **Kirov:** Vyatka Humanities University, **Kolomna** Humanities University; **Krasnodar:** Kuban State University; **Krasnoyarsk:** Siberian Federal University; Krasnoyarsk Pedagogical University; **Kurgan** State University, **Kursk** State University; **Magnitogorsk** State University; **Minsk** Linguistic University; Belarus State University; **Moscow:** Moscow State University; Moscow City Pedagogical University; Moscow Pedagogical University; Moscow: Baumann Technical University, **Naberezhny Chelny** Pedagogical University; **Nizhnevartovsk** State University; **Nizhny Novgorod** Higher School of Economics;; **Novosibirsk** State University; Economics and Management University; **Omsk** State University; **Orenburg** State University; **Orsk** Humanities University; **Penza** State University; Finance University; **Perm** State University; Perm Pedagogical University; **Petrozavodsk** State University; **Pyatigorsk** State Linguistic University, **Pskov** State University; **Rostov-on-Don:** Southern Federal University; **Ryazan** State University, **Samara** State University; **Saratov** State University; **Sevastopol** State University; **Simferopol** Crimea National University; **Smolensk** State University; **St Petersburg** Herzen Russian Pedagogical University; **Taganrog** Pedagogical Institute; **Tambov** State University; **Tomsk** State University; **Tula** Pedagogical University, **Tver** State University, **Ulan Ude:** Buryat State University; **Vladivostok:** Far Eastern National University, **Volgograd** Pedagogical University, Volgograd State University; Civil Service Academy; **Vologda** State University; **Voronezh** State University; **Yaroslavl** State University; **Yelets** State University.

(71 universities; 100 participants).

PROGRAMME TUESDAY 12th September

All Sessions will be in the University Council Hall on the 4th floor of Korpus 1 **except** the Workshops and Teachers' discussions which will be in the New Building, Korpus 8.

9.00 Registration. Payment for travel. Please bring your tickets.

9.45 All teachers to be present so that we can arrange workshops.

10.00. – 10.40. The Rector of Perm State University will open the Seminar, followed by an introduction by Boris Proskurnin and a discussion of the book supply by Karen Hewitt

10.40 – 11.30 Short talks on some of our novels: Jenny Bavidge on *A Snow Garden*; Scarlett Baron on *Nice Work*, Nick McGuinn on *Black Swan Green*, Karen Hewitt on *Elizabeth is Missing*; Scarlett Baron on *Atonement*

11.30 -11.50 COFFEE

11.50 – 12.40 Jenny Bavidge will talk on ***Environment and Nature in British Fiction and Poetry***

12.-40 - 12.50 p.m. Questions and discussion on Jenny's talk

12.50 – 1.25. A discussion of developments in the Project and of *Footpath-10* and *Footpath-11* by Karen Hewitt and Boris Proskurnin.

1.25 – 2.15 LUNCH

2.20 – 3.10 In Building 8, Teachers in groups to discuss the experience of teaching the novels with newcomers to the project; the British participants will move from group to group as requested. All teachers will be expected to take part in this. Experienced teachers need to help their colleagues.

3.15 to 4.15 In Building 8. Workshops on four topics: Nick McGuinn: Drama Workshop on *Testing the Echo*; Scarlett Baron on *The Uses of Genre*; Jenny Bavidge on 'London in Literature'; Karen Hewitt on *Revelation of Character*

4.20 – 4.40 COFFEE (In Building 1)

4.40 – 5.30 Karen Hewitt on ***Probing Literature – or the Question of Questions.***

5.30 – 5.40 Questions about the talk.

5.40 - 6.15 Play-reading: Extracts from *King Charles III* by Mike Bartlett introduced and performed by the British participants.

6.15 Some universities to collect books.

WEDNESDAY 13th September

8.30 a.m. Payments to any teachers who were not paid on Tuesday.

9.00 - 9.50 Scarlett Baron on ***Formal Experiment in the British Postmodern Novel***

9.50-10.00 Questions and discussion on Scarlett's talk.

10.00-11.00 Short talks: Scarlett Baron on *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters*; Jenny Bavidge on *White Teeth*; Nick McGuinn on *The Taxi Driver's Daughter*; Karen on *Whirligig*; Jenny on *Regeneration*, , Nick McGuinn on *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Karen on *Ulverton*

11.00 – 11.20 COFFEE

11.20–12.25 Seminar exercise on '***Metaphor and how it is used***'. Photocopied extracts will be distributed the previous day..

12.25 – 1.05. Boris Proskurnin will give a talk on ***Victorian literary traditions and A Week in December***' by Sebastian Faulks and '***Capital***' by John Lanchester

1.05 – 1.15 Questions and discussion on the talk.

1.15 to 2.15 LUNCH

2.15 - 3.05 Nick McGuinn will give a talk on '**Challenges and Strategies in a Multicultural Literary Experiment**'

3.05-3.15 Questions and discussion on this talk.

3.15 to 4.15 In Building 8. Workshops on four topics: Nick McGuinn on 'Using drama to explore a novel'; Scarlett Baron: 'Unreliable Narration'; Jenny Bavidge on 'Plot and Structure'; Karen Hewitt on 'Enjoying Poetry with your students'.

4.20 – 4.40 COFFEE

4.40 – 5.40 A Question and Answer Session on 'Aspects of British Literature today'. Participants can submit spoken or written questions to the British panel.

5.00 – 6.00 *From 5 pm. participants from each university will be called in order (an order to be decided by the co-directors!) to fetch their books and commentaries.*

7.15 Final dinner and party

About our Speakers

Scarlett Baron grew up in France, studied at Oxford, and is a Lecturer in the English Department at University College London, where she teaches twentieth and twenty-first-century literature. Her research has so far focused on such modernists as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Gustave Flaubert. Her first book, *'Strandentwining Cable': Joyce, Flaubert and Intertextuality*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2011. She has a keen interest in postmodern and contemporary fiction and has conducted interviews with Julian Barnes and Alan Hollinghurst, among others.

Jenny Bavidge is University Senior Lecturer and Academic Director for English at the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge. Jenny took her BA in English Literature and Language at Worcester College, Oxford and then an MA and PhD at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is President of the Literary London Society and sits on the committee of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Jenny has published on London in literature, on children's fiction and on ecocriticism.

Nicholas McGuinn is a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Education at the University of York. He has trained secondary school teachers of English and Drama for over twenty years. His latest book, *Take off into English Teaching*, will be published by Routledge in the autumn. He is currently researching issues of literature and identity as part of the *Hull City of Culture* initiative.

List of Books in the Project

1 Graham Swift *Waterland* (1983);

2 Hilary Mantel *An Experiment in Love* (1995)

3 Julian Barnes *A History of the World in 10 and a Half Chapters* (1989);

4 Jonathan Coe *What a Carve Up!* (1994);

5 David Lodge *Nice Work* (1988);

6 Pat Barker *Regeneration* (1991)

7 Michael Frayn *Headlong* (1999);

8 Ian McEwan *Atonement* (2001);

9 Nick Hornby *About a Boy* (1998);

10 Esther Freud *The Sea House* (2003)

- 11 Zadie Smith *White Teeth* (2000);
- 12 Penelope Lively *The House in Norham Gardens* (1974)
- 13 Jill Dawson *Magpie* (1998) (Out of print)
- 14 Beryl Bainbridge *Master Georgie* (1998)
- 15 Barry Unsworth *Morality Play* (1995)
- 16 David Mitchell *Black Swan Green* (2006)
- 17 Julia Darling *The Taxi Driver's Daughter* (2003)
- 18 Adam Thorpe *Ulverton* (1992)
- 19 Ruth Rendell *Portobello* (2008)
- 20 Bernard MacLaverty *Grace Notes* (1997)
- 21 Sebastian Faulks *A Week in December* (2009)
- 22 Magnus Macintyre *Whirligig* (2013)
- 23 David Hare *Stuff Happens* (2004)
- 24 David Edgar *Testing the Echo* (2008)
- 25 John Lanchester *Capital* (2013)
- 26 Mark Haddon *The Curious Incident of the Dog ...*(2004)
- 27 Emma Healey *Elizabeth is Missing* (2014)
- 28 Rachel Joyce *A Snow Garden and other stories* (2015)