

THE ANU NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES,
AND THE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE
STUDIES, FACULTY OF ARTS, ANU,
PRESENT:



PUBLIC SEMINAR

THE CULTURAL NORMS AND ASSUMPTIONS EMBEDDED IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

A seminar in the Russian and East European Series:

Monday 22 October 2007, 4pm – 6pm

At the National Europe Centre, ANU, 1 Liversidge St [67C], The Australian National University. Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP preferred: europe@anu.edu.au Enquiries: T: 02 6125 9896 <http://www.anu.edu.au/NEC/>

Presenters:

Professor Alexei Shmelev, Professor of Russian Linguistics at Moscow Pedagogical State University and Head of Department of Linguistic Standards of Russian at the Institute of Russian Language, Russian Academy of Sciences. His work spans a number of disciplines including cultural studies and linguistics. He is the author of numerous books, most recently, *Ključevye idei ruskojazykovoj kartiny mira* [Key Ideas of Russian Linguistic Picture of the World] (2005, co-authored with Anna Zalizniak and Irina Levontina).

Dr Elena Shmeleva, Senior Researcher of Department of Linguistic Standards of Russian at the Institute of Russian Language, Russian Academy of Sciences. She authored numerous articles on various fields of Russian linguistics (derivation, semantics, lexicography, etc.) and co-authored the book *Russkij Anekdot: Tekst i Rečevoj Zhanr* [Russian Joke: Text and Speech Genre] (2002). She is also the author and presenter of popular radio and TV programs about the Russian language ("Gramotej", "Znaem Russkij").

Irina Levontina, is co-author of *Ključevye idei ruskojazykovoj kartiny mira* [Key Ideas of Russian Linguistic Picture of the World] (2005, with Anna Zalizniak and Alexei Shmelev).

The presenters will discuss the world-view encoded in the Russian language. Since this world-view is usually presented in non-assertive components of meaning (that is, connotations, presuppositions, etc.), speakers of Russian tend to take this world view for granted, along with the illusion that life in general is arranged in this way. Most of the words that reflect and pass on language-specific ways of thinking defy translation. When translated directly or naively into other languages, they may cause cross-cultural miscommunication even though they may have alleged equivalents in dictionaries. The concentration will be on what has remained the same in the Russian language-specific conceptualization of the world and what has changed in the last century (with special reference to the last decade).



The views in this Lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.