

OXFORD RUSSIA FUND
SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH FICTION, 2007
Perm State University, 14th-15th September 2009

Participants:

Organising directors: Karen Hewitt (Oxford University)
Professor Boris Proskurnin (Perm State University)

From Britain:

Dr Sandie Byrne, Oxford University, Department for Continuing Education
Dr Catherine Brown, St Hilda's College, Oxford University
Dr William May, University of Southampton

Books: Copies of the novels in the project have been provided by the Oxford Russia Fund. The Commentaries on fifteen of the novels have been written by Karen Hewitt with the help of teachers who have taken part in the Project in 2005-6, 2006-7 and 2007-8. They are published in Perm and the costs of publication have been borne by the Oxford Russia Fund.

TIMETABLE: Monday 14th September

Payments (08.30) Registration (09.00) and the Seminar Sessions will be held in the University Council Hall on the 4th floor of Korpus 1. **Please be there in good time.**
10 a.m. Opening Session: The Vice-Rector for Research from Perm State University.
10.15 Karen Hewitt and Boris Proskurnin: Previous work on the project will be briefly summarized, and the main aims of this Seminar session will be explained.
10.40 - 11.30 Approaches to *Nice Work; Atonement; What a Carve Up; Experiment in Love*
11.30 - 11.50. Coffee break.
11.50 - 12.35 p.m. Catherine Brown: Comparative Literature: an English approach which compares Tolstoy and D.H. Lawrence.
12.35 - 1.15. General Discussion of the journal *FOOTPATH*. Where do we go from here?
1.15 - 1.30 Karen Hewitt: Books from Perspective Publications
1.30 - 2.30 Lunch
2.30 - 3.20 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.
3.20 - 4.00 On writing commentaries. For this session please read the article by Karen Hewitt in *Voprosy Literaturny*, 2007, Volume 5. (Copies in English attached in your email.)
4.00 - 4.20 Coffee break.
4.20 - 4.50 Teachers to provide feedback from the discussions so far.
4.50 - 5.30 Panel Discussion on How to interpret English fiction: Tone and Implication
5.40 - 5.50 Will May on Stoppard and radio plays.
5.50 - 6.15 Playreading by the British-Irish team of Tom Stoppard's Radio Play, *If You're Glad, I'll be Frank*
Free time (for preparing work for Tuesday). You can also look round Perm.

Tuesday 15th September

10 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Discussion of *Black Swan Green* and *The Taxi Driver's Daughter*
10.30 - 11.30 Sandie Byrne: On modern Irish Literature – and a discussion of four poems
11.30 - 11.50 Coffee break
11.50 - 12.45 An exercise in reading passages from the novels with help from the British team.
12.45 – 1.30 p.m. Fresh Approaches to *Waterland*, *Master Georgie*, *Morality Play*;
1.30 p.m.- 2.30. Lunch
2.30 - 3.30 Teachers in groups discussing the novels and commentaries.
3.30 - 3.50 Teachers in plenary discussion.
3.50 - 4.10 Coffee break
4.10 – 4.45 – Fresh Approaches to *White Teeth*, *Headlong*; *A History of the World in 10 and a Half Chapters*; and possibly *Regeneration*.
4.45 - 5.25 - Religion in Contemporary English Fiction. A panel discussion which will incorporate comments and queries from teachers and students.
5.25 –6.00 Informal discussion: general questions. What next? What have we learned? What should go in the report?
5.00 - 6.00 p.m. Distribution of books to teachers. The books will be distributed to participants according to a list in order that teachers do not waste time in excessive queuing. Meanwhile those who are waiting to collect their books will continue the discussion.
6.00 –7.15 Free time
7.15. Final dinner and party