



REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Confidential

1. Lead Applicant

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Surname | Jahn | | |
| Forename | Hubertus | | |
| Title (Dr, Professor, etc) | Dr | | |
| Male | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Female | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Address for correspondence

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
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Present appointment and employing institution:

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of History, Cambridge
Fellow, Clare College
Chair, Cambridge Committee for Russian and East
European Studies

Role in activity

Lead organizer, chair in workshops

2. Activity details

Type and title of activity

Two interdisciplinary thematic workshops: 'The politics of literature in contemporary Russia', 'Russian culture in European context. Neo-narodnichestvo in the literature of the Silver Age'

Location

Cambridge and Oxford

Date

From: 5 March To: 6 March

Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

Two interdisciplinary workshops were held in Cambridge and Oxford. They brought together 21 (Cambridge) and 27 (Oxford) postgraduate students, senior faculty, and members of the two academic communities (see attached lists). Both workshops included presentations by Konstantin Azadovskii (PEN Club, St. Petersburg) and lively discussions in the audiences. In Cambridge, questions of current literary policies and the relationship between state and literature were discussed; in Oxford, the focus shifted away from the wider European context of Russian literature and explored what appeared to be a uniquely Russian phenomenon: neo-narodnichestvo and its role in Russian culture during the Silver Age.

3. Achievement of stated aims and objectives

Please summarise how the stated aims and objectives of the activities proposed have been achieved and how these have helped to further the aims and objectives of CEELBAS.

The two workshops in Cambridge and Oxford were feeding into the CEELBAS theme of "Contemporary cultural processes". In Oxford, the workshop complemented the CEELBAS-funded post-doctoral fellowship programme on cultural processes in Eastern Europe, while in Cambridge the workshop linked into the activities of the Study Group on Contemporary Russian Culture at CRASSH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities) and of CamCREES (Cambridge Committee for Russian and East European Studies). Both workshops were in essence interdisciplinary events, with participants coming from literature, history, anthropology, political science and the wider public. Although literature was at the heart of the presentations, it mostly served as a catalyst for broader topics such as politics, culture and historical imagination. In Cambridge, the question of literature and the state in Russia today quickly turned into a discussion of censorship and literary freedom under the difficult conditions of a capitalist publishing market. As it turned out, literature is still free in Russia today, paradoxically because it doesn't really matter anymore, having lost its key position as social platform. Instead, the mass media have taken over this role and are consequently suffering from state oppression. In Oxford, the phenomenon of neo-narodnichestvo during the Silver Age was scrutinized both in its literary expressions (most notably among Russian symbolists) and in its wider historical implications, including today's quest for a new national identity in Russia. Here the discussion turned to questions of historical continuity and imagination of populist trends beyond the 1917 watershed, but also raised wider issues of populist tendencies in other European literary traditions. As had been expected, Konstantin Azadovskii was the ideal presenter and discussant for these topics.

4. Outcomes

Please indicate the outcomes and 'value for money' of activities carried out.

Both workshops offered its participants the possibility to network and to make contact beyond the usual confines of their academic institution. The personal contact with a distinguished intellectual from Russia was clearly a positive feature for many participants, especially those at the beginning of their careers. It was understood that these contacts will be maintained in the future. Furthermore, the workshop organizers have agreed to continue this kind of event and further strengthen the cooperation between Oxford as a member of the CEELBAS Consortium and Cambridge as a Network Partner for the benefit of their postgraduate communities. Sharing the logistical side of workshops between CEELBAS and existing local capacities and flying in one speaker for two different events reduces costs for both travel and organization. As it turns out, the funds requested in the initial application will now only be claimed in part (also because subsistence for the speaker and administration costs, that is time spent by the lead organizer for arranging logistics and publicity, can practically not be proven by receipts).

5. Breakdown of total costs for workshops (please attach evidence of expenditure)

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|---|---------------|
| Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence) | |
| Air ticket | 320.00 |
| Visa fee | 80.00 |
| Transport in the UK (car of organizer: Cambridge – Heathrow – Cambridge – Oxford – London): 311 miles x 40 pence/mile | 124.40 |
| | 200.00 |
| | 58.00 |
| Postgraduate participation | |
| | |
| Room/equipment hire | |
| | |
| Administration costs | |
| | |
| Printing and publicity (including conference packs) | |
| | |
| | |
| Other (please specify) | |
| | |
| Total expenditure | 782.40 |
| Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS by Cambridge | 724.40 |
| Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS by Oxford | 58.00 |

7. Dissemination and further research

Please give details of dissemination of the outcomes of the workshop/project and any further research planned.

Dr Azadovskii plans to publish his work on the Silver Age and the role of neo-narodnichestvo then and now in either Zvezda or Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie. He has just been re-elected as president of the St. Petersburg PEN-Club, which will ensure his continuing struggle for the interests of Russian writers and the freedom of literature. He has published on these matters in major news media in Russia in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

8. Signature and date

Applicant's signature

Dr Hubertus Jahn

Date: 11/03/08

Institutional authorisation (if required)

Position:

Date:

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact

Professor Simon Franklin

Date: 11/03/08

This form must be accompanied by an invoice from the applicant's institution, supported by receipts or other evidence of the expenditure incurred.

Please send the completed form to the CEELBAS Administrator, SSEES, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

CEELBAS is a consortium of UCL,
University of Oxford and University of Birmingham



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