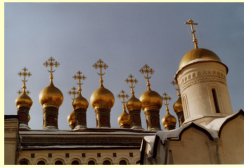




Project Summary

My thesis is a multi-author study which explores attitudes to Roman Catholicism in the 19th to early 20th centuries, with reference to how this is manifested in the literary culture of the period. Catholics formed a tiny minority of the Russian Empire, yet Catholicism had a much greater influence on how Russian thinkers and writers formulated the idea of what it meant to be Russian than has been previously examined. The thesis examines attitudes over more than a century of Russian history in order to assess the impact of historical events and cultural changes on the image of Catholicism. It includes a broad range of attitudes to Catholicism and assesses these attitudes by analysing many types of text.



Methodology and Approaches

I work in the broad discipline of cultural history, from an interdisciplinary perspective, bringing together historical approaches with methods of literary analysis. My thesis therefore brings together scholarship on intellectual history with literary criticism. My work is generally text-based rather than author based, but I also seek to place writers within their historical contexts. This includes not only Russian political history and cultural history, the impact of Catholic and European history too. I also consult methodologies of nationalism.

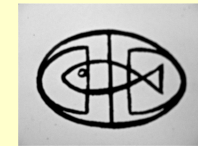


Contact: Elizabeth.harrison@ucl.ac.uk

Aims and Objectives

The study will make an integrated but focused contribution to the study of religion in the Russian culture of this period, the Russian national idea, and the intellectual history of Russia.

It will take several key writers and texts as case studies, including selected works of Chaadaev, Pushkin, Gogol, the Slavophiles, Tiutchev, Dostoevskii, Vladimir Solov'ev and Viacheslav Ivanov. These texts include poetry, essays and polemics, novels and dramas.



Research Outputs

'Fides et ratio' Conference Paper currently being prepared for publication with Podopi as part of Proceedings of Conference on Russian Irrationalism held at Bristol University, March 2010.

Work in Progress Seminars: 'Tiutchev and Roman Catholicism', March 2010

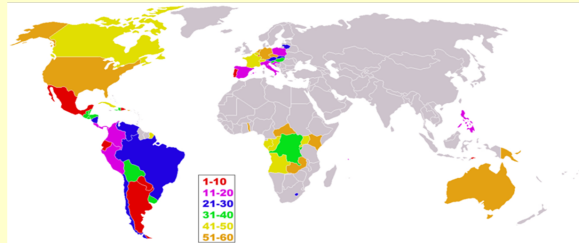
'The Jesuit in Russian literary culture', March 2011

I seek to prepare and publish papers derived from chapters of my thesis. On completion of thesis I aim to find publisher for my thesis.

Outcomes and Impacts

There has never been a study of the image of Catholicism in Russian literature apart from on a few single authors, and so this study will make a unique contribution to research into the relationship between religion and Russian nationality, Russian thought and literature.

Catholicism is an under-researched and yet prevailing theme in Russian literature, and Roman Catholicism has had a huge influence on Russian history and politics more widely. I would therefore hope that the study will be illuminating for anyone with an interest in attitudes towards religious and ethnic minorities in Russia as well as to those working in cultural history.



Catholics by percentage in world population



Further Research

On the completion of my thesis I would like to follow these research interests:

- the *Rimskii dnevnik* cycle of poems by V. Ivanov, a work written in emigration in Rome, after his conversion to Catholicism. I will examine his treatment of religious experience and personal faith in his poems.
- I would like to make a comparative study of how converts (starting with converts to Catholicism) describe their path to conversion.
- I also have a broader long term interest in the treatment of other religious and ethnic groups in literary texts, particularly comparative studies.



Consortium:
UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies
University of Birmingham Centre for Russian and East European Studies
University of Oxford Russian and East European Studies

Network of University Partners: Bath, Cambridge, Kent, Manchester, Sheffield, Warwick, SOAS



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