

International Conference Announcement and Call for Papers: “The Russian Language Outside the Nation: Speakers and Identities”

1-3 April, 2010

held by **Russian in Context Research Unit,
The University of Edinburgh**

Papers are invited for the conference to be held at the University of Edinburgh. The aim of this conference is to explore multiple issues connected to the position of Russian as a post-imperial language and Russian speakers' identities as members of a linguistic minority in the new world configuration. The organisers wish to bring together scholars in the broadly understood field of Russian language in society, including sociolinguistics, (critical) discourse analysis, linguistic anthropology, language politics, and interdisciplinary areas such as diaspora, identity, memory studies and others.

Key conference speakers:

Professor David Andrews (Georgetown University, USA)

Professor Bill Bowring (Birkbeck College, University of London)

Dr Ekaterina Protassova (Helsinki University, Finland)

It is envisaged that the conference will include but not be limited to the following themes:

- Politics of the Russian language outside Russia;
- Space and place in Russian identity construction;
- Language, identification and self-understanding (cultural, ethnic, national, religious etc) of Russian speakers in the countries of the former Soviet Union and those of traditional emigration;
- The Russian community as a story-telling society: narrative identities and construction of common memories outside Russia;
- Fields of Russian identity negotiations;
- Russian and the questions of linguo-cultural marginality;
- Responses of Russian to the problems of globalization;
- Contested concepts (for e.g. diaspora, minority, integration) in relation to Russian speakers;
- Linguistic performance of Russianness;
- Russian language virtual communications and questions of identity.

It is planned to publish an edited volume of selected papers.

Please E-mail your proposals, including a working title and an abstract of around 300 words, **by 15 August 2009** to the conference organisers:

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Participants will be notified on the acceptance of their proposals by 1st October, 2009.