

BECOME ~~HEROES~~ OF OUR TIME*

Outreach Event for Students in Years 11 and 12
Department of Slavonic Studies, University of Cambridge

Programme

1 July 2017

Selwyn College, University of Cambridge

11:00am **Welcome and Introduction** (*Dr Rory Finnin*)

Learn about the Department of Slavonic Studies and the many academic pursuits that the University of Cambridge makes possible. Explore Russian as part of the degree in Modern and Medieval Languages and as part of the new joint degree in Russian and History.

11:30am **Russian Language Taster Session** (*Dr Elena Filimonova, Ms Natasha Franklin*)

Experience a Russian language lesson designed for those who may have some Russian (GCSE or A'level) or no Russian at all. Whatever your starting point, you will be sure to learn something new!

12:30pm **Lunch**

1:30pm **Presentation:** Dr Rachel Polonsky, author of *Molotov's Magic Lantern: A Journey in Russian History* (Faber & Faber 2010)

2:30pm **Presentation:** Professor Simon Franklin, *Language(s) and Culture in Russian History*

Everybody knows that Russians speak and write in Russian. But, on close inspection, the simple facts that 'everybody knows' often turn out to be not quite so simple, and rather more interesting. The Russian language has not developed in isolation. Russian culture has at various times found privileged status for various other languages – French, German, Latin, English, not to mention its oldest written language of culture, Church Slavonic. This lecture will explore the many languages of Russian culture in the past, as an important factor in understanding the emergence of modern Russian and the cultures that it reflects and embodies.



*A reference to Mikhail Lermontov's classic novel *A Hero of Our Time* (*Герой нашего времени*, 1839-41), which is a familiar companion of many first-year Cambridge students of Russian!