

BECOME HEROES OF OUR TIME*

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

Programme

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, which will be available from 2017.

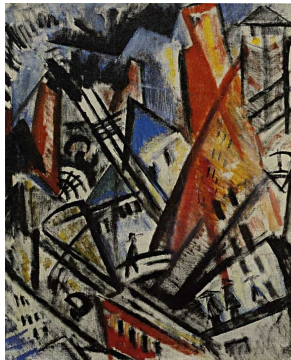
11:30am **Russian Language Taster Session** (*Dr Elena Filimonova, Ms Natasha Franklin*)

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 **Buffet Lunch**

1:30pm **Presentation: 'Streets Are Our Brushes, Squares Are Our Palettes': City, Art and Language in Revolution** (*Dr Alyson Tapp*)



St Petersburg is a city super-charged with the energy of creation. Concentrated in this space are many diverse efforts to realize imaginative visions of Russia's culture, history and identity. Words hold special power here: the city has been known by three different names in its three-hundred year history (St Petersburg, Petrograd, Leningrad and again St Petersburg). We will explore the history of the city and examine paintings and poems from 1900-1920, all the while asking ourselves: does the dynamism of the modern city and the energy of Revolution remake everyday life, art, and language?

2:30pm **Presentation: Art, Politics and Protest: 1953 to the Present** (*Dr Susan Larsen*)

Russia's rulers— whether Romanov tsars, Soviet commissars or post-Soviet bureaucrats—have always understood, sometimes feared, and frequently sought to control the power of art to inspire social and political change. In response, Russian writers, filmmakers, musicians and visual artists have developed many creative strategies to circumvent – and sometimes to challenge—the state's attempts to limit political and artistic freedoms. This session will explore three moments in Russian and Soviet history when artistic innovation and political change intertwined with particularly dramatic results: the brief 'Thaw' that began after Stalin's death in 1953; the era of openness (*glasnost*) and restructuring (*perestroika*) that preceded the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991; and the extraordinary wave of public protests that filled many Russian city streets in 2011 and 2012.



*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!

Please note that there will be a film screening in Fitzwilliam College on Friday 1 July for those attending the University Open Day on 1 July and staying in Cambridge overnight. Please see Registration form for further details.