XVIII International Student Research Conference

On April 19-21, 2018, Narva College of the University of Tartu held the annual International Student Research Conference gathering students from 10 different countries. With its eighteen years of tradition, Narva Student Research Conference is one of the longest standing student conferences in Estonia. This year for the second time the conference was organised in cooperation with Master’s students of Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies.

36 students from Estonia, Russia, Hong Kong, Georgia, Poland, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Italy and Germany were selected based on their submitted abstracts, which you can find in this book. The thematic focus fields of the conference were education, linguistics and culture, Russian language and culture, youth work, transboundary entrepreneurship, and Russian & international studies.

During the two main conference days, April 19 and 20, there were two plenary sessions and altogether twelve parallel sessions. The main working language of the conference was English, except the Russian language and culture section.

With the initiative of Johan Skytte Institute the annual conference was enriched by a new section – Russian and International studies. This year more attention was paid to Russian culture in Europe – there was a round table discussion held by Kristina Kallas, Director of Narva College, on the topic “Russian-speaking European, what does it mean?”. There were special guests among the speakers: Nikolai Karayev, journalist and MEP Yana Toom Constituency Office local advisor; Andrei Ivanov, Russian-speaking writer from Estonia; Andrey Makarychev, Visiting Professor at Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies of the University of Tartu.

Narva 18th International Student Research Conference was supported by the Estonian Gambling Tax Council, Narva College of the University of Tartu, and Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies.

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10:00  Opening of the conference

11:00  Parallel section I: Linguistics & Culture  
       Parallel section II: Russian & International Studies  
       Parallel section III: Education

12:30  Lunch

14:00  Parallel section IV: Language & Culture (in Russian).  
       Parallel section V: Transboundary Entrepreneurship.  
       Parallel section VI: Education & Youth Work

16:00  Round Table Discussion: Russian-speaking European, what does it mean?

18:00  Cultural evening

**DAY II / 20 April, Friday**

10:00  Keynote address: New cultural agenda of the borderland: is Narva next?

11:00  Parallel section VII: Linguistics & Culture.  
       Parallel section VIII: Russian & International Studies.  
       Parallel section IX: Youth Work.

12:30  Lunch

14:00  Parallel section X: Language & Culture (in Russian).  
       Parallel section XI: Transboundary Entrepreneurship

16:00  Closing of the Conference

18:00  Farewell dinner at Narva Castle

**DAY III / 21 April, Saturday**

10:00  Cultural program in Narva: Bus trip to Kreenholmi Manufaktuur

13:00  Departure of the participants
Information Technologies and their Impact on Principles of Education

Elena Bazilevskikh, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Russia

The modern system of education applies information technologies more and more every day by using technical means and electronic educational resources. The world is global, and the use of information technologies is inevitable, moreover, it is already in our today life. It facilitates teaching and learning processes in a way to make them more productive; today a teacher is not the only source of information, and people can overcome distances and borders by e-learning. Information technologies are restructuring teaching and learning processes. However, using information technologies in the process of studying in groups does not give such efficient results: the process of learning is becoming more mechanical, there is not enough time for direct contact between a teacher and a student.

The unified learning style and one approach to different students in a group creates difficulties for learning material. Certainly, the issue is debatable and the academic community should discuss it. We need to adapt information technologies to existing educational systems with participation of teachers; there should be provided maintenance of machines in the classroom, and other issues must be foreseen and solved.

The research is focused on the impact of information technologies’ use on principles and essence of education (the research pays attention to the education process in groups of students, i.e. regular classes of a middle school of general education). Methods of the research are historical observation, the hypothetical method, comparative analysis, the sociological method.

Therefore, in conclusion, there are many advantages and appreciable help of information technologies in the educational process; their use is inevitable, but we need to follow some basic rules and apply a rational methodology for achieving the most productive results and using it in a rational way.
Ethical Issues Associated with Teaching Gifted Pupils and Students. Methods for Increasing the Volume of Stored Information

Sergei Tsvetinskii, Pskov State University, Russia

When pupils demonstrate advanced abilities, their teachers consider some ethical issues: firstly, if the advanced level of knowledge is purely pupil’s property or it is a benefit of the public. This non-simple issue creates an opportunity for further development of a gifted pupil even despite his or her will. This could be justified by the fact that the child does not understand his (her) opportunities, and s/he might become considerably useful for the society, for example, by making a contribution to science. By law, children are under-age, and parents should partly decide for them. Who must define gifted child’s destiny?

Secondly, should teachers “isolate” the group of advanced (gifted) children from other pupils into special schools and foundations? Is it permissible to give them any privileges in comparison with middle-ability school-mates? How to prevent conflicts based on such differences? The answers to these questions are to be received from teachers and students in the form of a questionnaire survey.

The third important issue during further (advanced) education is if it is acceptable to overload pupils with extra information when they have no free time. We have also a possibility to reduce the volume of required homework. But it is uncertain how it would influence the general level of culture and interpersonal relationships among classmates.

The second part of this work is devoted to the main methods for increasing comprehension of knowledge in special establishments, where children are prepared for olympiades, contests and conferences. Such methods are mnemotechnics and a special differentiation of gifted pupils into groups which is based on their most effective type of perception.

Some children learn better from pictures and films, others - from audio resources, third ones remember better with movements or tactile sensations. We will try to measure how effective such differentiation and other special methods are.
Informal Youth Education as a Practical Approach to the Introduction of Innovations in Reproductive Health Policy

Vera Syrakvash, Belarusian State University, Belarus

Today’s Belarusian families adhere to the traditional patriarchal model of the family and strive to root the same commitment to the traditional model in the younger generation, stigmatizing other family models, as well as unregistered forms of marriage. This, together with the lack of a modern approach to the introduction of reproductive education and family planning in the formal education system, are the key reasons for the huge percentage of divorces recorded in Belarus, especially among young couples, and for the low awareness of young people in matters of reproductive health, etc.

In order to reveal topical information about what family and parenting issues are of concern to young people, what their views on gender roles in the family are, what their attitude to unresolved ethical dilemmas in the field of reproductive health are, we surveyed 420 students at the BSU. Such size of the sample will allow us to obtain data sufficient for further analysis.

A comparative study was conducted to analyse such initiatives as informal trainings on the methodology "peer to peer" Y-Pee, Erasmus + for youth trainers exchange programs on this subject, independent educational initiatives organized with the support of European funds, which were already undertaken in Belarus in the field of reproductive health and gender equality for young people. Based on the research conducted at the BSU and on the results of the comparative analysis of the initiatives of Eastern Partnership countries (by the example of Belarus) and the European Union, it was concluded that a mixed multidisciplinary approach is the most optimal since it helps to strengthen cooperation between researchers in various fields of knowledge, as well as to strengthen the potential of interaction between non-state organizations and local authorities. Also specific recommendations on youth and gender policy were developed.
Homosexuality in the Modern World: From Interpersonal Communication to Global Discourse

Anastasiia Kurganova, Saint-Petersburg State University, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Russia

What makes conversation analysis a revealing method in the field of sociolinguistics is that conversations extend beyond the limits of individual opinions, experiences and ideologies; they rather are a synecdochic representation of a broader dialogue. Modernity brought into the spotlight the questions of gender and sexuality, both of which are in the foundation of same-sex desire as a field of inquiry. In present days, it is a hot topic for discussion, a point of interest for media and a growing field in academia. However, as tempting as it is to say that same-sex practices (let alone homosexuality) are a well-known universal phenomenon, the emergence of the so-called "Gay International" as a system of belief and a way of organizing desire and behaviour is a product of recent decades and still an ongoing process. The tendency to globalize the identarian and egalitarian Western view is one of the most prominent markers of modernity. This process lies in continuous cross-cultural dialogue that is often carried out through a medium of the new “lingua franca” – English. In this paper, I have taken as an example a few interviews from a popular documentary on queer rights (‘Stephen Fry: Out There’). This documentary is a lucid example of public discourse on homosexuality. Using conversation analysis to look at the content and the form of discussion, this paper will pinpoint the recurrent techniques, themes and patterns of the global dialogue on same-sex desire, as seen both in transcripts and in relevant literature. Special attention is paid to dominance in speech genres, codes and authorities. My goal is to show how global discourse is both produced by and productive of more specific examples of conversation and how it gives shape to seemingly chaotic ‘heteroglossia’ of the modern world.
Connotative Equivalence of Russian Lexemes "Художник", "Живописец" and English Lexemes "Painter", "Artist"

Elena Rulevskaya, Moscow Regional State University, Russia

The value of culture and art is constantly increasing nowadays. They can become the way of connecting different nations. Despite the fact that all nations are different we still have so much in common. This fact has given us the idea for our research of such concept as "artist".

The words of the thematic field "artist" have been used in articles of Wikipedia for the biographical descriptions of several Estonian artists: Olev of Iokhannesovich, Eduard Viyralt, Karl Augustus Zenff's Subb. We have made the decision to analyse the use of lexemes of the thematic field "artist".

The lexemes of "artist" and "painter" found at the first stage by the method of reversibility became the most widespread lexemes. They are close synonyms, however cases of their use differ. So the lexeme "artist" gets a connotative shade of great skills, and the lexeme "painter" designates a field of profession.

This article reveals the problem of translation equivalence illustrated by the example of comparison of the Russian lexemes "художник", "живописец" and the English lexemes "artist", "painter". By means of corpus analysis we have revealed the context of the use of each lexeme, established the equality between lexemes and also found new synonyms which were not found during our previous research. Our results were also confirmed by the analysis of the poems by Anna Akhmatova and Bulat Okudzhava and their translations into English. Corpus analysis helped us reveal several new lexemes which had not been found before. We classified them then according to our previous researches.
Translating American South into Russian and Polish: The case of A Streetcar Named Desire

Marcin Kosman, Jagiellonian University, Poland

The aim of my research is to compare two translations of Tennessee Williams’ A Streetcar Named Desire: Vladich Nedelin’s Трамвай «Желание» and Jacek Poniedziałek’s Tramwaj zwany pożądniem from the point of view of modern translation studies.

In my work, I analyse what kind of translation strategies were most prevalent in both versions and then explain their validity, taking into account cultural and literary contexts. The case of vernacular language is particularly interesting: Nedelin seems to be cautious as he tries to omit swear words and adds some elements to the story in order to explain it to the reader who may be unfamiliar with certain aspects. In contrast, Poniedziałek often adds words or phrases that could not have been uttered in the forties and generally intends to make the language similar to modern day slang.

Williams, being a writer deeply rooted in southern Gothic, is seen as an inherently American playwright. Thus, it was investigated how themes and motifs typical for American literature were rendered into Slavic contexts. Also, the paper tries to answer how universal Williams’ pieces are and whether they resonate properly with Russian and Polish audiences.

In accordance with that purpose, the following aspects were analyzed: adaptation in translation, domestication, foreignisation, theatrical potential, Sprechbarkeit (speakability). A special attention was paid to the treatment of culture-bound elements. In conclusion, one might observe that while both translators crave to make a foreign piece relevant in Slavic contexts, they take different approaches in order to do so: Nedelin relies on domestication and explication; Poniedziałek turns to strategies which pertain more to adaptation.
Familiarizing with the Esoteric “Otherness” of Baba Yaga

Marina Farima, Pedagogical State University “Ion Creanga”, Moldova

Russian Folklore is invaded by mythological figures, however, these differentiate the Slavic tradition from the common Greek and Roman mythologies of Western culture with their still persisting survivability in the modern age. One of these characters is the fearsome, old and surly hag with a face that is displeased to the senses, Baba Yaga. Her image is familiar to that of Western witches, yet, she is uncommon with the hut that she lives in, which walks on chicken legs, and with her cannibalistic behaviour. Being given the label “malevolent female demon”, she is considered blasphemous in Slavic Folklore and her nature resembles Freudian uncanniness. Examining literary and psychological writings by Alexander Afanasyev, Gennady Spirin, Clarissa Pinkola Estes, and Carl Jung, this essay argues that the character of Baba Yaga in Slavic Folklore is a product of patriarchal society, and it reflects the male point of view and its fear of women’s sexual power. By advocating with a range of feminist texts about female transgression and offering a range of feminist theories about how experiences of women adhere to the social and material world, Baba Yaga gleams with strength that is not derived from her seductive appearance, but from her individuality and from her rejection of social standards. Thus, succeeding in the contribution to the rising archetype of wild female identity in literature, it is privileged as the iconic feminist figure in Russian Folklore.
Globalization of Russian Literary Culture

Michela Romano, University of Bologna (Forlì Campus), Italy

Today Russian literature is the result of decades of political, cultural and social changes and the growing interdependence between the East and the West from the early Brezhnev era until today. In fact, historical and political changes frequently unwillingly let Russian literary culture spread out of its borders reaching European countries and their cultures. The illegal circulation of the Underground Russian culture during the so called Zastòj, Brezhnevian years of Stagnation, is, despite the designation, to be considered a flourishing era of literature of migration in search of a place where to raise its voice.

Therefore, the interdependence between Russian culture and European one started far before the fall of the USSR. It was in fact the beginning of a slow and subtle, but constant process of Globalization of culture. This process, affected the East and the West making geographical and cultural borders subtler and culminating with the fall of Communism, symbolically the beginning of a progressive Fall of all ideological, political and cultural barriers raised between Eastern and Western countries. The aim of this paper is to analyze how far the process of Globalization and European culture have influenced Russian today’s literary mainstreams. In particular, the focus will be on the role of the Russian writer and his novel as portrayer of the Russian community and identity, before and after the Fall of the Soviet Union along with the advent of mass means of communication and the developing of cultural networks.

Finally, the paper will discuss the Russian intellectual today’s attitude towards Western world focusing on different tendencies about western cultural and social influence in relation with the preservation of the uniqueness of Russian identity.
Semantics and Factors of Choice of Causal Connectives: a Cross-Linguistic Study

Petr Rossyaykin, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia

It is a common case in natural languages that causal relationship can be expressed by different connectives that seem to be synonymous at first glance: because, since and for in English; weil, da and denn in German; potomu čto, poskol’ku and tak kak in Russian; etc. However, they are not always interchangeable as illustrated in (1):

Sanders & Spooren (2013)

(1) a. The neighbours are not at home because/*since they are both at the office.
b. The neighbours are not at home, because/since the lights are off.

At least since the 70s (Lambda-l Group 1975) it was recognized that the key difference between such expressions lies in a type of causal connection: while in (1a) one event logically implicates the other, in (1b) the connection is epistemic. The support for this line of reasoning is provided by the data from spoken German where these two types of causal connection are encoded by different word order (Günthner 1996). Recently increasingly more scholars take on the topic in different European languages: English (Sweetser 1990), German (Kempen & Harbusch 2016), French (Zufferey 2010), Dutch (Sanders & Spooren 2013).

As a result, more sophisticated explanations were proposed, e.g. subjectivity vs objectivity, old vs new information, the presence of explicit evaluation, etc.

In this report I will compare the data of European researchers with the evidence from Russian using the corpus approach and theoretic analyses of Russian connectives (Haag 2004, Boguslavskaya 2008). I am going to study whether there is functional distribution between Russian causal connectives (potomu chto, poskol'ku, tak kak), and what factors the choice of a particular connective depends on. Importantly, spoken corpora will be included in the study since genre and mode of discourse are among factors that influence the lexical choice.
Russia’s Role in Affecting the Implementation of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

Chun Sing Ng, University of Tartu, Estonia

The original research project is my proposed master thesis on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA), which is a set of international agreements that strengthens political and economic integration between the EU and Ukraine. To narrow my research focus, this paper will assess Russia’s role in affecting the implementation progress of the EU-Ukraine AA, namely the situations of the occupied regions in Donbas and Crimea which fall into the category of Political Dialogue, Foreign and Security Policy of the Association Agreement. An assessment of the attitudinal change of Russian Foreign Policy on Ukraine with reference to the public statements of the spokesperson from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be measured to evaluate to what extent it affects the implementation progress of the AA due to Russian involvements in Donbas. Peacekeeping efforts in Donbas including the Minsk Agreements and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine will also be assessed. The results will be obtained through a qualitative analysis of the transcripts from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to match with the Russian Foreign Policy on Ukraine to assess whether it is a determining factor for the implementation of the section of Political Dialogue, Foreign and Security Policy of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The conclusion is expected to indicate if Russia, the external actor, plays a more significant role in affecting the implementation process of the EU-Ukraine AA than the internal issues which Ukraine has been tackling to facilitate the approximation of Ukraine to reach the EU standards for the acquis enlisted in the annex of the Agreement.
Between the EU and Russia. The Issue of Eastern Partnership Countries

Davit Budaghyan, Free University of Berlin, Germany

After five years of negotiations within the Eastern Partnership, on 3 September, the Armenian President, Serzh Sargsyan, unexpectedly announced that Armenia refused to sign the Association and Free Trade Area Agreements (AA/DCFTA) with the EU and joined Russia’s Customs Union. Many scholars clarify that Armenia has refused to sign the documents due to pressure from Russia. Thus, Russia claims to be a regional superpower and implements the same model of pressure (soft and hard power) in a shared neighbourhood with the EU.

According to Keohane and Nye’s concept, there are two types of interdependence: sensitivity and vulnerability. The degree of a state’s sensitivity depends on the amount of cross-border flows, and the degree of vulnerability depends on the availability of policy alternatives. Strong asymmetrical interdependence in bilateral relations between Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine from one side and Russia from the other side give a reason for Russian success in challenging EU policy transfer in a shared neighbourhood. However, some countries like Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, despite some sectors in which countries are more dependent on Russia, they resisted Russian-imposed rules and signed the AA/DCFTA.

The paper draws on the framework of Esther Ademmer, who said that if the country is sensitive to Russian policy but the degree to which a state is affected by unilateral changes to cross-border flows is less, then it is possible to be more sovereign in foreign relations. But if the state’s degree of vulnerability to Russia is high, then it is not possible to be sovereign.

Presenting evidence from a comparative case study on the decision-making of foreign relations policy in Armenia and Georgia, the paper argues that the distinction of different forms of interdependence with Russia and the EU plays a key role in the foreign policy of both countries.
Crisis in Relations between Russia and the EU. Consequences for Belarus

Kiryl Kastsinevich, Belarus State Economic University, Belarus

The Ukrainian crisis of 2013-2014 negatively affected not only the Russian-European relations, but also the region as a whole. The political crisis in Eastern Europe could not but affect Belarus. It brought to Belarus not only new challenges, but also new opportunities.

The first thing I would like to pay attention to are positive changes that have been opened up for Belarus, namely, improvement in relations with the EU, improving the image of the official Minsk in the international arena, and new economic opportunities.

Further in my presentation, I will indicate the threats for Belarus, which have appeared because of the political crisis in Eastern Europe, namely, an increase in the number of troops of the Russian Federation and the NATO to the borders of Belarus and the deterioration of relations between Belarus and neighbouring countries in the information sphere.

Given these factors, the official Minsk is doing everything possible for keeping positive trends and minimizing the risks of potential and existing threats. As a result, Belarus is trying to become a peacemaker in the region and proposes to solve not only short-term problems but also it tries to succeed in the longer term, as a result of which the initiative of Helsinki-2 has appeared. Helsinki-2 is an attempt by the Belarusian side to launch a negotiation process, which is designed to reduce the level of tension in the region, similar to the Helsinki process of the first half of the 1970s.

Belarus lies in the center of Europe, and it needs this initiative, on the one hand, to ensure its own security and to defend its independence. On the other hand, Helsinki-2 may become an additional opportunity to improve its image and to promote the interests of Minsk in the international arena.

Thus, Helsinki-2 can be considered as an example of a rational approach to the foreign policy of its country, based on emerging opportunities and threats.
Russia and the BRICS: Steps towards a Multipolar Architecture of the World

Nataliia Aniskevich, Russian Academy of Science, Russia

The BRICS is one of the most "fashionable" and discussed trends in modern Russian research. In the present world, this association acts as a tool for the formation of a multipolar world, one of the institutions, but informal, that can join the process of global governance.

The BRICS is the phenomenon of modern integration which brings together five countries in various parts of the world. The association was created in order to implement geo-economic and geo-political motifs associated with changes in weight categories in the world hierarchy and mechanisms of global governance.

The BRICS is a young association, and, therefore, it is normal that it is facing some problems at different stages of development. The problem of the BRICS at present is the heterogeneity of the economic union. The absolute dominant group is China. Just to bear in mind, at the formation of the format of BRICS cooperation all countries were positioned as a fast-growing country, but at the moment the majority of the economies of the association are in stagnation. The BRICS today has problems that do not allow the realization of today claim to be the center of the global world. These problems are the uncertain legal status of the BRICS, the lack of identity in political terms and economic model, there are latent conflicts (between China and India), geopolitical competition, the lack of common military-strategic objectives in the context of global security. These problems indicate the presence of integration limits.

It is quite obvious that for Russia the BRICS is important. The Russian government is making great efforts to influence the active work of this association and to improve its development strategy. At this stage of their existence, both the BRICS and Russia, have faced certain difficulties that stand in the way of solving the main tasks set for the unification. Therefore, it is important to consider how the BRICS and its participants (especially Russia) can change the general political picture of the world from a unipolar to a multipolar one.
Russian Soft Power in Georgia and Moldova (Comparative Analysis)

Tatia Vakhtangadze, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Influence of Russian soft power as an instrument of implementing its foreign policy in Georgia and Moldova is not examined properly. Accordingly, the research question of this work is – What has been the influence of Russian soft power in Georgia and Moldova since 2013 till now? A theoretical framework of the research is based on Joseph Nye’s soft power theory.

To reach the main goals of the work I used analysis of primary, secondary and tertiary sources. Also, the information analysis in the work is based on analytical articles, scientific papers and public opinion polls.

During the research process, I have found out that Russian soft power specifics differ in Georgia and Moldova, and political situations in these countries are obviously different as well. The main results and conclusions of my work reveal that:

- Russian soft power has become more active since 2013-2014. This is the period when Russia defined soft power in its foreign policy concept, and the two countries signed the EU Association Agreement. Soft power was practically expressed with raising the popularity of pro-Russian political parties and organizations as well as intensive activity of pro-Kremlin media. It is worth mentioning that it is very hard for clearly pro-Russian political parties in Georgia to win support of the majority, while Moldova has a pro-Russian President and large political parties in parliament.

- The above-mentioned differences between peoples’ attitudes are explained by a primary reason. The self-proclaimed Republic of Transnistria is a lever for Russia against Moldova. This is unlike Georgia, where Russia has already used hard power in so-called “South Osetia” and Abkhazia.

The work concludes that in Moldova (compared to Georgia) more danger exists for public opinions to become the basis of changing of pro-western foreign policy, if the Kremlin’s information war is not resisted by proper anti-propaganda instruments.
The Impact of International Human Rights Treaties on the Internal Policy of Autocracies (Case of Torture Prevention)

Valeria Stefania Caras, National Research University Higher School of Economics Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Modern authoritarian regimes are adapting various democratic tools to ensure the stability of their regime and increase confidence in the eyes of the international community. The institute of Human Rights (HR), whose reforms are being undertaken at the international level, also does not escape from the attention of autocrats. In general, it is believed that autocrats do not respect HR treaties. However, the impact of treaties on the policy of torture, is still little explored and, therefore, is ambiguous. The UN adopted four main documents aimed to prevent torture.

An analysis of the implementation of the provisions of the four treaties was done through the selection of authoritarian countries, including Russia, according to the Gandhi typology. The methodology consists of the use of correlation and regression analyses. Correlation analysis outlines variables that affect torture. Regression in which the dependent variable was the regularity of torture in each year in every country allowed the construction of four regression models, with independent variables as the country’s membership in HR treaties, the independence of courts, the number of parties in the country, and the type of electivity of legislative and executive bodies.

Four treaties were implemented in authoritarian countries as follows. Autocrats for the most part mostly remain at the stage of their signing and do not ratify them. However, HR treaties can influence the regularity of the use of torture in autocracies and contribute to its reduction. Authoritarian countries that have acceded to the CEDAW and the ICERD have reduced their repressiveness. The Additional Protocol to the CAT increased the use of torture, while the Protocol to ICCPR contributed to their reduction. Also, domestic institutions as courts and the electivity of legislative and executive bodies have a significant impact on reducing torture.

This paper confirms that institutions are important, and the international institution of Human Rights too.
Transnationalism and Attitudinal Integration: Russian-Speaking Youth and Estonian Security and Defence Policy

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In the context of increasing geopolitical tensions, the identities and political loyalties of Russian-speaking minorities living outside of the historical homeland have become the focus of a growing body of research. Questions about the identities and political orientations of Russian-speakers are particularly pertinent in Estonia and Latvia, former Soviet republics that are now members of the EU and NATO, where Russian-speakers constitute a large share of the population. This research examines attitudes towards Estonian security and defence policy among Russian-speaking youth in Estonia through the theoretical lens of transnationalism and triadic nexus models. The central hypothesis is that young Russian-speakers’ attitudes toward security and defence vary as a function of citizenship, level of identification with Estonia (as opposed to the ethno-cultural homeland) and individual integration into the Estonian society. This hypothesis will be tested with qualitative analysis based on interviews of the target group. The interviews cover 25 members of the Russian speaking community in Estonia, collecting information about their closeness to Estonia and Russia and measuring attitudes towards the key aspects of Estonian security and defence policy. The results of this research will shed light on the weaknesses of Estonian societal resilience and help governmental actors to redirect integration policy in the more effective way.
"Спезы, спезы и... снова работа: Как же весело донной то быть" [Spezy, spezy and work again, how much fun is being a donna]: Italian Lexicon used by Russian Speakers Living in Italy on the Internet

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Studies on Russian-speaking diaspora in Italy show that the discourse of Russophones is largely characterized by such features as code-switching and code mixing (Perotto 2010, 2015, Nikolaeva 2014). This phenomenon also occurs and intensifies in the Internet communication, where immigrants try to express themselves expressively and originally (Asmus 2005: 19). In this research I pay attention to the Italian lexical units used by immigrants on the Internet.

The insertion of Italian lexicon in oral speech of Russian-speaking immigrants is often explained by the lack of an efficient one-word equivalent, and the need for distinguishing meaningful and stylistic characteristics (Nikolaeva 2014: 106). Krysin notes that a foreign word can be embedded in speech to create a specific linguistic colour (Krysin 1968: 49). We can observe these processes also in our material, where Italian lexicon is also used in order to give the text a certain “foreign colour”. In (1), спезы (It. spese ‘purchases’) and донной (It. donna ‘woman’) can be easily replaced by the Russian corresponding words, the use of which, however, would not create the comic effect of this statement:

(1) Спезы, спезы и ... снова работа: Как же весело донной то быть. 'Purchases, purchases and again work: how (much) fun is to be a woman' (www.russianitaly.com)

The purpose of our research is (i) to provide a semantic classification of the lexical units from the collected material, (ii) to show the formation of a specific “internet diaspora style” characterized by expressiveness and evaluation, (iii) to show the language picture of the world peculiar to the Russian speaking diaspora in Italy.
The Literature Reputation of Mass-Fiction Writer in Russian Literature of the XIX Century

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The paper investigates M. V. Avdeev’s reputation, the circumstances that influenced its formation as well as some strategies, aimed at its consolidation. The reputation of an epigone, acquired in his lifetime, is frequently explained by a «scrappy» character of his works (which is reflected in the synchronous, but not interconnected reviews of I. S. Turgenev and N. G. Chernyshevsky). However, his own life-creating strategies as well as the search for an alternative way in Russian literature played an important role in the formation of this reputation. The game character, directed at entertaining the reader (the story «The Mountains»), the startling recognition of his unoriginality and second-rate role in literature (the trilogy «Tamarin») as well as the non-acceptance of literature as artificiality and affectation (the story «The Clear Days») provoked, anticipated an appropriate reaction of literary critics and readers. Meanwhile, the game character, affirming a particular hierarchy of the author, hero, and reader’s capabilities, as a rule, was not taken into account by critics and contemporaries. The paper analyzes not only M. V. Avdeev’s works, but also popular sources (modern editions and popular encyclopedias) which make it possible to get an idea about the modern status of this writer in the history of Russian literature.
Взаимодействие грамматических характеристик и гендерных стереотипов при обработке согласования по роду

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В некоторых случаях в русском языке допустимо и формальное, и семантическое согласование с подлежащим по роду, например, «Врач пришел» или «Врач пришла». Такая ситуация сложилась прежде всего в тех случаях, где парного существительного женского рода не существует или оно есть, но является разговорным, например, «кондуктор – кондукторша».

Однако существительные мужского рода иногда используются и в тех случаях, когда существительное женского рода нормативно и достаточно употребительно: например, «Она была учителем начальных классов». Само это явление исследовалось, но никто ранее не изучал, как такие примеры обрабатываются в реальном времени.

В нашем исследовании будут задействованы две группы существительных: названия профессий, для которых допустимо использование существительного мужского рода для наименования лица женского пола и семантическое согласование с этим существительным, и существительные, указывающие на различные свойства личности (например, ревнивец / ревнивец, счастливый / счастливая, злой / злой) и не имеющие вариативного согласования. В качестве семантического фактора в первой группе будет выступать то, насколько «мужской» или «женский» традиционно считается та или иная профессия.

Известно, что в обществе есть определенные стереотипы относительно того, какой процент мужчин и женщин работает в той или иной области, и, хотя мы можем осуждать эти стереотипы и бороться с ними, они, безусловно, оказывают влияние на восприятие речи.

Наша гипотеза состоит в том, что несмотря на допустимость в определенных случаях семантического согласования, на ранних этапах всегда будет наблюдаться эффект от несоответствия грамматического рода подлежащего и сказуемого.
В качестве стимулов будут выступать предложения типа «Библиотекарь была погружена / был погружен в заполнение формуларов», скорость чтения которых будет пословно замеряться с помощью метода чтения с самостоятельной регулировкой скорости (self-paced reading).

Мы предполагаем, что данная работа может быть применена в преподавании русского языка как иностранного, так как регистрируется современное, живое, некодифицированное употребление. Кроме того, она входит в парадигму работ, посвященных выяснению общих закономерностей согласования в европейских языках.
О мульти-модальных кластерах в русском языке

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Как известно, устная речь носителя русского языка содержит не только семантически значимые единицы, но и множество дискурсивных слов, которые играют значительную роль в процессе понимания дискурса, но при изучении языка им зачастую не уделяется должного внимания. С другой стороны, дискурсивные частицы, как правило, сопровождаются в речи определёнными фонетическими изменениями и/или определёнными жестами в широком смысле слова, в том числе иногда соответствующим направлением взгляда. Таким образом, нам кажется, что изучение дискурсивных маркеров должно опираться на мульти-модальный характер их употребления.

В статье [Гришина, 2011] для описания явлений, которые с частотой выше средней появляются при выражении одного и того же смысла и образуют разномодусные пары и тройки, выступающие как самостоятельные единицы, был введён термин мульти-модальный кластер (ММК). Там же автор замечает, что изучение таких явлений в русском языке может осуществляться с опорой на данные устного под-корпуса Национального корпуса русского языка и в особенности Мультимедийного русского корпуса (МУРКО). В ходе их создания автором были выявлены многие закономерности относительно совместной встречаемости различных единиц дискурса.

В докладе будут рассмотрены свойства дискурсивного маркера О, а также частицы ДА в итоговом значении. Для обеих частиц будут описаны наиболее частотные жесты и фонетические особенности, сопровождающие их произнесение. На материале частицы О также будет показано, как для разных значений этого дискурсивного слова, в том числе указательного и эмоционального, выявляются различные характерные фонетические черты. Далее, опираясь на фонетические особенности произнесения вокального жеста в указательном значении, в свою очередь, можно уточнить данное значение и выявить различия контекстов употребления частицы О и схожих дискурсивных маркеров ВО и ВОТ.
Знакомство с русским языком и культурой для многих иностранных начинается с классической русской литературы: большинство уже когда-то читало Толстого, Чехова, Пушкина и Лермонтова в переводах, мечтая однажды прочитать все произведения на языке оригинала. Однако исследования показывают, что даже те читатели, для которых русский язык является родным, далеко не всегда способны понять то, что было написано почти два века назад. Например, для современных российских школьников не так очевидно, что фраза «торговать ковер» имеет значение отличное от «продавать ковер». Как показывают эксперименты, это и еще 20% текста «Героя нашего времени» нуждаются в пояснении в XXI веке, иначе текст просто рискует быть непонятным даже русскоязычными читателями. Возникает вопрос, возможно ли «перевести» роман Лермонтова с языка XIX века на язык XXI и сделать его более читаемым (readable) как для русской, так и для зарубежной аудитории?

Эта работа является частью проекта «Тамань сегодня», который проводится в рамках исследовательского семинара Школы лингвистики НИУ ВШЭ и занимается изучением литературного языка XIX века. Основная задача проекта была сформулирована как поиск и описание устаревших конструкций и лексики, составление базы данных, а также создание и разметка корпуса текстов XIX века. Список таких конструкций может стать основой словаря устаревших конструкций XIX века, пособием для изучающих русский язык и литературу, а также послужить материалом для лингвистического изучения диахронических процессов русского языка.

В представленной работе проводится анализ лексических единиц, которые были использованы М.Ю. Лермонтовым в романе «Герой нашего времени». Было принято решение ограничить данное исследование рамками одной главы, а именно, главой «Фаталист» с целью наглядно продемонстрировать, как происходит архаизация лексики, и как современным читателям...
порой может быть непонятен один из главных текстов в истории русской литературы. Причем, не столь важно, является ли этот читатель российским школьником, или же зарубежным студентом. Текст, написанный почти два века тому назад, в XXI веке заставит одинаково задуматься многих, вне зависимости от имеющегося культурного бэкграунда.
Развитие жанра комиксов в России и их уникальность

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Жанр комиксов набирает все большую популярность в России. Но несмотря на самые добрые чувства среди молодежи, более взрослое поколение относится к такому жанру литературы очень скептически. В России к комикус традиционно относятся как к второсортному художественному продукту во многом потому, что не знают, что это такое. Комикс у нас в стране никем никогда не изучался. А задуматься есть над чем.

В своем докладе я бы хотела обратить внимание на историю развития комиксов в России. Выяснить, почему этот жанр активное развитие получил лишь в начале 2000-х. и оценить влияние западной культуры на формирование литературной идейности комиксов современной России.

Я сравнила два похожих комикса и решила их противопоставить друг другу, чтобы выявить их идеиные сходства и различия. В качестве первого примера я буду использовать норвежский комикс «Неми».

Первый выпуск появился в 1997 году, Неми тогда была всего лишь одной из героинь. Сам комикс повествовал о жизни готов, был мрачным и черно-белым. Со временем Лисе Мюре (автор) сделала комиксы более жизнерадостнее и главной героиней стала Неми; Лисе подумала, что комиксов, в которых главной героиней была бы девушка, не так много в мире, к тому же, девушке девчачью жизнь обрисовать проще. В комиксе затрагиваются такие темы как: вегетарианство, проблемы отношений между людьми, поиски смысла жизни.

В качестве второго примера, я буду оперировать книжкомиксом русского автора Андрея Тищенкова «Больше, больше». "Больше, больше" - это сборник коротких историй о коте и человеке. Кот, ради разнообразия, говорящий. Большую часть комикса представляют собой стрипы, что-то среднее между шуткой и жанром обыденной философии. Сам комикс, это не история о персонажах с четким сюжетом, а скетч.
Все герои (автор и кот) условны, их можно заменить и смысл не изменится. Если обращаться к рисунку, то это осознанный примитивизм, упрощение формы для облегчения понимания. Особое внимание уделено в комиксе юмору и философии. Но рисунок достаточно хорош, чтобы с человеком проходила ассоциация, а кот вызывал умиление.
Transboundary Entrepreneurship between Russia and the Baltic Region: Past, Present and Future of Regional Economic Cooperation

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The paper focuses on Russian-EU cooperation in the sphere of trans-boundary entrepreneurship in the region of the Baltic sea as one of the most important strategically for both parties. The research is separated in three major parts and, firstly, looks into cooperation facilitated mainly by subsidiary committees of the Baltic Sea States Council before the 2008 crisis, paying attention to the challenges, both political and economic, that existed during that period of time, and it also focuses on the initial agenda of development in the region. Then it proceeds to the investigation of 2008 economic crisis influence on the region and amount of trans-boundary trade and also trade balance of MNC operating from the region. Paper touches upon the measures that were enacted by BSSC and the committees established for crisis regulation, considers initiatives for reclaiming the potential amount of cooperation from both sides. The third part of the research is dedicated to the changes that occurred after 2014 when mutual sanctions were implemented and political climate in EU-Russia relations became much more rigid for implementing any initiative. The author tries to evaluate new status of the Baltic region as an effective channel for cooperation that continues its existence amid tensions that appeared between the EU and Russia on a bigger scale. All three sections are based on analysing statistics from regional ministries and data from working committees of BSSC, Worldbank Statistics, besides the author analyses policies that were agreed upon and ratified by the countries of the region. In the end paper gives a data-based prediction of a possible course of actions in the region, development of cooperation and dialogue, also the author tries to show the influence of the regional situation on EU-Russia relations in the period of acute tensions.
New Windows from Dependence on Russia

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Modern economic topics is the sanctions against Russia by the European Union and the USA. Any losses, whether they are from European countries or from Russia, can reduce the growth rates of the world economy as a whole. This crisis situation creates not only problems, but also opens new perspectives for all sides. The globalization of the world economy, accompanied by an increased competition in markets, leads to a revision of views of business and political systems. Small and medium enterprises are the stimulator of economic growth. In Russia this segment is on the verge of a foul. Nowadays, Russian entrepreneurs are concerned about the search for financial resources, qualified specialists, access to state and municipal orders, cooperation of small businesses with large companies. Problems of Russian SME have existed for several years, but now their question is particularly acute. Lending to this sector can only lead to a bankruptcy of banks in Russia. Russians need to consume European goods, and their domestic raw material companies are completely dependent on the European market. Nevertheless, President Putin has accepted a strategy for the development of SMEs in Russia until 2030. Russia will have a plan to become economically independent on European banks systems and to enhance own production. The European Union is highly dependent on the strategic supplies of energy resources, high demand and purchasing power from Russia. Along with this, Russia depends on the import of such strategically important products as medicines, technologies, components for production. An economic confrontation between Russia and Western countries was initiated a long time ago according to historical data and experience.

In the situation that has arisen, all sides of the conflict need either to review priorities or to rebuild their economies in such a way that to be less dependent on each other.
Investments Created as Part of Public-Private Partnership with the Use of European Union Funds

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The public-private partnership has been the focus of the European Commission’s interest for many years. The Commission recognizes in a public-private partnership the possibility of engaging private capital as an alternative to engaging public funds from European Union funds.

The hybrid model of public-private partnership consists in the simultaneous use of EU funds and private capital, or national public resources.

The most classic model of cooperation between a private and public partner in one project using EU funds is a situation in which the private partner is responsible for its construction, operation and settlement. The second model of public-private partnership is the division of the project into parts - ring fencing. The investment project at the construction stage is divided into two parts. The first part is implemented in the form of public-private partnership. The second part is implemented with the use of European Union funds. After completion of construction, the private partner receives a license to operate the entire investment. The third model is the division of the project into phases. The construction phase is carried out by the public sector and the private partner runs the operating phase.

The hybrid public-private partnership has hitherto been used primarily in situations where a different financing structure was not sufficient to implement projects of a very high value.

It is worth paying attention to two projects that were implemented as part of public-private partnerships with the use of European Union funds. The first project was the Athens bypass. The second project was the Perpignan-Figueras railway line.

In summary, it should be noted that the method of combining the public-private partnership model with EU funding can be applied both to projects generating revenues from users and to projects that do not generate revenue.
Alvar Aalto: Breaking the Boundaries. Experience of Perception of the Master’s Heritage in Russia and Finland

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Alvar Aalto is the most famous and outstanding master in the history of Finnish architecture in the XX century. His mission was to create a humanistic architecture, which could restore the connection between nature and people. Aalto rebelled against dehumanization of modern bourgeois culture, against assertion of technology over man and contrary to man.

Using such “traditional” materials as brick, red copper, granite, wood, he looked for new ways of using them. New techniques invented by him are determined not only by the properties of materials themselves, but also by the capabilities of modern technology. The high ability to compare the texture and colour of materials makes their comparison one of the main instruments of composition, at first glance, goes to Aalto from lessons of the school of national romanticism; however, while Eero Saarinen and Lars Eliel Sonck operated with contrasting cladding, Aalto turned to the properties of structural materials.

There are many important aspects that we need to pay attention to in country studying. Culture is one of these aspects. The most visible component of culture is architecture. One of the key Aalto’s monuments is Vyborg City Library, located in Russia. It is also an ideal example of Finnish functionalism and traditional Finnish materials (wood and stone), which used on a par with modern ones. Vyborg city library is considered as the embodiment of Aalto’s talent and one of his most outstanding project. This monument may be considered as a part of world significance.

Vyborg City Library is the only building of the outstanding Finnish architect, which is located in Russia, and it has a great importance for our country. This monument is also unique for Russia, because this is the one of the main city attractions. Tourists go to see it, citizens and authorities of the city take pride in it. This library is a real cultural centre. After a successful restoration, the library has become a symbol of hope for the revival of Vyborg.
Utilization of E-Governance in Russia and the EU - New Challenge in a Changing World

Tatia Nikvashvili, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

In the 21th century people live in the digital era where everything is at our fingertips, consequently, it is thorough to say that Electronic governance is a crucially important paradigm that enables to live a simplified and sophisticated life. E-Governance has received much interest and popularity worldwide. The term itself, E-Governance, has many definitions, and it is used as a seemingly democratic pattern of legitimating which became more popular during the last decade; as the current data of the UN e-government survey (2014) shows several autocracies massively expand their online facilities, including the EU and Russia.

In the long-term, e-Government is also viewed as a new model of public governance. Many countries around the world are striving to revive the new system of public governance based on the principles of transparency and efficiency. In order to meet these goals, governments are implementing innovations into their organizational structures, strategies and plans and their methods of using human, information, technological and financial resources.

However, implementing e-Governance without major drawbacks still remains a case for trans-boundary entrepreneurship, therefore, it is vital to analyse international experiences to modernize public governance and successfully integrate e-Governance in democratic countries including the Russian Federation. On the other hand, a country’s ranking position adjusts the world’s attitude toward this country, so it is both interesting and important to discuss this by the example of Russia and the EU. In article there will be reviewed the technological dimensions of e-Government, the pitfalls of the digitalization of public governance, legal frameworks of e-Governance in the EU and in Russia, momentous challenges and some obstacles including cyber-attacks and how to prevent them.
Evaluation of Attractiveness of the Investment Sites of the Pskov Region for Domestic and Foreign Investors

Tatiana Beliaeva, Pskov State University, Russia

A review of information sources gives different interpretations of the definition of “investment attractiveness”. The most common is the definition of investment attractiveness as integral characteristics of individual enterprises, sectors, regions and countries as a whole from the standpoint of development prospects of investment yield and the level of investment risk.

Investment site is an area designed for target development and prospective development. The Pskov region is the link between a huge Russian market and the markets of European countries. The centre of the region, Pskov, is situated approximately in the same vicinity from St. Petersburg (283 km), Tallinn (280 km), Riga (260 km).

Investment infrastructure of the Pskov region is presented in various areas, such as a special economic zone “Moglino”, more than thirty of investment sites of the brownfield type with existing infrastructure, and over a hundred of greenfield sites suitable for setup of infrastructure at the request of an investor. In addition, investors have the opportunity to buy or rent necessary land. Such a variety of possibilities for a potential investor might complicate the choice for an investor. Each of the offered investment sites of the region has its advantages and disadvantages, and, therefore, has a unique investment attractiveness.

In the process of the research work, the methodology of determining the investment attractiveness of investment sites of the Pskov region for Russian and foreign investors, involving the use of actual data of investment sites, is developed. The usage of this methodology involves compiling a matrix of investment attractiveness, where investment activity is reflected in two directions of the axis, and the size of the circles characterizes the level of investment potential.

The distribution of investment sites in the matrix in terms of investment attractiveness can provide a potential investor with sufficient information to expedite the process of making a preliminary decision.
Russian-French Cultural Exchange in the Field of Winemaking

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Wine industry has been considered to be exclusively the French-Italian-Spanish sphere of influence since ancient times. However, there are a lot of new players. Russia is one of potentially competitive regions in the industry, where it has a centuries-old tradition of winemaking and fertile regions. Despite that fact the country lacks:
- culture of wine consumption,
- sufficient level of awareness about alcoholic beverages,
- image and PR-policy in the field of winemaking.

Promotion and education of people are most effective through media. Media is a common source of information for modern people. It will act as the best intermediaries between the vineyard – store – consumer. The special branch of media – wine journalism – was founded in France. This region was repeatedly recognized as the first in terms of wine production volumes; the majority of the nomination and adjectives in the lexicon of sommeliers and cavists comes from French. Moreover, France supposes wine to be a) part of the national culture, b) a way of creating social groups, c) a component of French cuisine and as a consequence a part of UNESCO’s heritage, d) an object of professional education (journalists, sommeliers, winemakers).

Hence, Russia can borrow French traditions of wine journalism as a potential participant of the world market in this area. The wines of the Russian South are not inferior in quality to world leaders, but their saleability is much lower due to the unrecognizability of brands. Countries could establish cross-cultural exchanges in the process of special education, in media and social sphere. This cooperation will lead Russia to a new economic level, create new tourist destinations within the country, bring up the “beverage’s culture”.

Social Protection

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Social protection issues in the modern world and in Russia, in particular, are acute. There are a lot of vulnerable people who are in need. In my research I will identify the phenomenon of social protection in Russia. I will focus on the problems of implementing social protection issues in Russia. I will examine some solutions to the existing problems. The main methods used in my research are description, synthesis, analysis, including exploratory analysis. The objects of the research are categories of the population in a difficult life situation. The subjects of the research are features in organizing and functioning of social protection in the Russian Federation.

Social protection and social security in a state-organized society is a sphere of interweaving vital interests of citizens, property and distribution relations, legal methods and methods of their regulation, social policy of the state and social and economic human rights. It is also the sphere of refraction of such universal values as equality, social justice, humanism, moral foundations of society. The purpose of social security is, first of all, to meet the needs for sources of livelihood for the elderly and the disabled.

Social protection as a special social institution of the modern state is an indicator of social confidence, a social guarantee for the worthy development of each member of the society and the preservation of the sources of livelihood in the event of social risks.

The objectives of the social protection for the population are:
- adequate social existence of man, respect for his honour and dignity;
- provision of material aid to the population in extreme conditions;
- promoting the adaptation of vulnerable groups to the market economy.

The main social problems in the regions of the country are: pension problems, housing problems, health problems, the problem of unemployment.

Social protection measures include:
• measures to tackle unemployment;
• establishment of the minimum wage, pensions and scholarships;
• the payment of child allowances;
• support for large families;
• monitoring compliance with children’s rights.
The Causes of Irrationality in the Behaviour of Decision-Makers (Young People) from the Standpoint of the Theory of Information Cascades

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The authors put forward the hypothesis that the social significance of information is lost in the formation of the information cascade, which gives the field for an irrational manoeuvre, thus making a decision, a person does not maximize his benefits, but tries to smooth out the formed context, the tendency to a decision. This is the problem of the research. The goal was to prove this idea on an experimental level. An experiment was conducted with three groups of schoolchildren of 19 people. Students were selected for the work of the humanities, science and physics and mathematics classes of the lyceum (that is, people who can understand political issues, understand the context, but do not know the methods of work used by the author, that is, they are not “spoiled” respondents”). It was proposed to implement a parliamentary bipartisan decision-making model with an open ballot vote.

Participants were divided into roles “opposition”, “functionary party of power” (in the ratio of 9 and 10 respectively). Two “experts” were videotaped on 3 issues, and they were arranged so that the argument of the first “expert” was an order of magnitude stronger than the second and protected the values of the opposition. “Interrogated” when voting first the informed representative of the opposition (he always voted for “weak” positions), which, according to the recommendations of the class teacher, was the leader of public opinion.

1) Respondents were inclined to form descending information cascades in almost half of the cases (43%), which was due to reliance on authority and the attempt of the last interviewed persons to fit into the emerging context; 2) In this situation, people did not maximize their profits, but resorted to the so-called “reputational costs”, trying to “straighten out” the situation (ie, to level out the consequences of choosing others).
International Youth Cooperation Between the EU and Russia

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The research focuses on international youth cooperation between the EU and Russia, and how this partnership can be mutually beneficial for both parties as well as young individuals involved. The research paper covers various activities of youth work and focuses on its development throughout the EU-Russia partnership. The EU resolution regarding youth work has been analyzed, which is paramount to prognosticate the future of youth work within the member states of the EU as well as trans-boundary cooperation. Research highlights how individuals involved in youth work advocate democratization and raise awareness of civic responsibility and how such experience encourages successful transition from education to employment. The research paper examines CBC Programme which is a joint programme between the EU, Russia and Estonia and how such plans of action aim to foster cross-border co-operations. Using methods such as case study and historical analysis the research paper covers development of transnational youth work between the EU and Russia, thus resulting into improved political, social and cultural dynamics and consequently, prognosticates its future course. Moreover, the paper discusses various aspects of youth work such as smart youth work, alongside with digital youth work, utilization of which results into more flexible and fruitful activities, for example: online training courses or organized visits in Russia, where young people from EU member states are encouraged to exchange their experience and worldview with their Russian peers.

The research paper represents a comprehensive study of the EU-Russia relations with a focus on youth work and underlines various aspects of engagement in smart youth work and digital activities, as well as concentrating on future perspectives of cooperation. The paper explores advantages of such programmes on an individual level as well as its effects on international relations and peace-building.
Interaction of State Institutions with Young Compatriots Living Abroad

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The main problem of the research is the lack of a successful model for working with young compatriots and the lack of practices and systems of relations that would contribute to the consolidation of Russian-speaking youth and our young compatriots. The object of the study are young compatriots living abroad, who in turn are subscribers of the community. The fundamental task of the work is to find a successful model that would allow state institutions to effectively interact with young compatriots living abroad. Therefore, as the provisions that are put on the defence, analyses of communication and community management systems are used in the framework of state interaction with young compatriots living abroad as an effective way of interaction.

Work with young compatriots is relevant in many European countries, but not everywhere there are government programmes. The experience of European countries must be taken into account. This is a strategically important area. Also working with young compatriots is an element of soft power or smart power. In my study, I used the case study method in a group in a social network "Youth of the Russian World" and young compatriots who are subscribed to the community. It is this approach and methodology that makes it possible to test theoretical data on a practical real case and prove the possibility, with the help of tools, of an effective method of interaction of state institutions with young compatriots living abroad. Taking into account the modern context and the purpose of my work, an additional drive to actualization of the direction is the construction of a communication bridge through social networks.
Subjective Indicators in Determining the Level of Safety and Comfort of Public Eating Places by People with Vision Impairments (by the example of St. Petersburg)

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In this paper practices of attending public eating places by blind people and subjective factors which determine that choice make up the main focus of the author's analysis. The implementation of the concept of accessible city by the example of St. Petersburg is being analysed and discussed in this paper. As a result of an empirical research among a community of people with vision impairments in St. Petersburg, a number of factors that are lacking or in demand for improvement have been revealed. Also, by the example of the social project the author shows possibilities for future changes in that realm.