

Mattias Ågren

In Pursuit of Neo: The Matrix in Contemporary Russian Novels

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ABSTRACT: Arguably, few popular films during the last decade have caused so much debate, and been more frequently quoted as film *The Matrix* (1999), written and directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski. This paper analyzes allusions to the film in four works of contemporary Russian prose fiction. These works exploit, to various degrees, *The Matrix* in order to evoke visual representations from the film, and to draw on structural concepts and similarities. Further, I argue that references to *The Matrix* are made in order to benefit from the film's eclectic mythological concepts and transpose them to the literary realm. This kind of cross-fertilization could be seen as a growing trend where the borders between different media are becoming more fluid, and where they benefit from each other, be they novels, films, or computer games.

Gordana Božić

The Ethnic Division of Education and the Relations Among Non-Serb Minorities in Kosovo

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ABSTRACT: Kosovo's education system is divided along a Serb-Albanian line, with consequences for the non-Serb minorities. While Serb-Albanian relations have been researched and analyzed extensively, relations among non-Serb minority communities have typically been neglected. Although there are some studies addressing the treatment and rights of individual minority groups in Kosovo, there is very little written on the dynamics and relations those groups establish among themselves. This article uses education as the backdrop for analyzing the emerging inter-minority relations in Kosovo. The paper provides some background about minority education rights and the consequences of their partial implementation for those minority groups—i.e., the Kosovo Bosniaks and Turks—whose members opt to follow the Albanian (Kosovo) educational system. In addition, it offers insights into some of the economic and political considerations behind the decision of the Gorani community to endorse the Serbian educational system. Finally, I analyze the relations between the Goranis and Bosniaks that have been developing around education and language rights.

Johanna Granville

Blame the Messenger? Bucharest and Its Bungling Diplomats in 1956

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ABSTRACT: The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 remains one of the most thoroughly researched areas of Hungarian history. However, the Romanian involvement in, and responses to, the events in Budapest have received far less scholarly attention. Secondary sources have tended to focus either on the Romanian communist party leadership and its role in incarcerating the Imre Nagy group, or on the revolution's impact on the Hungarian minority in Romania. However, this article investigates the perceptions and performance of the Romanian diplomats and intelligence officers stationed in Budapest during the uprising. Foreign ministry telegrams reveal the extensive misperceptions of, and logistical difficulties faced by, the diplomats, especially Ambassador Ion Popescu. The diplomats inflated the Hungarian dictator Mátyás Rákosi's alleged popularity, blamed the situation on imperialist plotters outside Hungary, underrated the dissent of Hungarian workers and intellectuals, and exaggerated the threat of Transylvanian irredentism. The exiguous, biased reports from the Budapest embassy, among other factors, arguably propelled the Bucharest leaders to take an active stance in containing the "counter-revolution" on their western border.

Barbara Maggs

Imprisoned! Two Russian Narratives of Travel and Captivity in Asia in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries: Filipp Efremov in Central Asia and Vasilii Golovnin in Japan

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ABSTRACT: The travel accounts of Filipp Efremov, a Russian soldier who was taken prisoner in Central Asia in 1774 and Vasilii Golovnin, a naval officer who became a prisoner of the Japanese in 1811 are two works which have thus far received little attention from literary scholars but which deserve to be included in the history of Russian travel literature. This study approaches the two narratives as literature rather than

documents of history; it explores the relationship between the literary travel account and that of the newly developing genre of the novel, analyzing such elements as plot, narrative technique, character development, themes, and setting. The presence of an underlying literary tension within each narrative resulting from the subtle clash of the objective informational aspects of the account and the author's subjective personal story is considered as well.

Alla Nedashkivska

Symbolic Bilingualism in Contemporary Ukrainian Media

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ABSTRACT: This study focuses on the social meaning behind the use of both Ukrainian and Russian in various media texts in contemporary Ukraine. I begin by situating the language issue within the current socio-political context; specifically, I briefly summarize recent language debates relevant to this paper. Secondly, I analyze selected media texts from television programs, films and popular magazines—all instances of the simultaneous and parallel use of Ukrainian and Russian. The analysis is then extended to a discussion of the media's stake in framing the linguistic situation in Ukraine.

The texts in question are approached on the premise that “media usage influences and represents people's use of and attitude towards language in a speech community” (Bell and Garrett 1998: 3). I consider the media's choice of language an institutionalized means of framing reality (Popp 2006: 6) and therefore the use of language in the media acts symbolically, creating prevalent ideas about what language can and should do in a particular society (Woolard and Schieffelin 1994, cited in Popp 2006: 5).

My analysis of communicative exchange is carried out from the perspective of code-switching that takes place within a larger social and political context. I address the social dichotomy of “we/they” or what Gumperz (1972) calls “metaphorical code-switching.” My analysis rests also on Auer's code-switching framework, specifically his notions of “preference-related switching” and “sustained divergence of language choices” (1998b).

Roman I. Shiyan

Between Faith and Country: The Predicament of Metropolitan Iosyf Neliubovych-Tukal's'kyi

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ABSTRACT: This is an investigation of the life of a top hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Iosyf Neliubovych-Tukal's'kyi, pastor and a chief advisor to Hetman Petro Doroshenko (1665–1676). This article explains the circumstances and consequences of the Metropolitan's advocacy for accepting the patronage of the Muslim Ottoman sultan over Cossack Ukraine. The Metropolitan's decision is shown to be less paradoxical than it may appear, emerging out of Tukal's'kyi's understanding of what was best for Cossack Ukraine, its people, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Katy Turton

Keeping It in the Family: Surviving Political Exile, 1870–1917

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ABSTRACT: A sentence of exile was a regular feature of the Russian revolutionary's underground career. In order to survive this punishment and continue their struggle against Tsarism, revolutionaries relied on help from their fellow exiles, their party, the Political Red Cross and, often, their families. Historians have rarely acknowledged the role of kin in supporting the revolutionary movement and very few studies have noted the attempts by families to mitigate the worst aspects of a sentence of exile. This article explores the ways in which spouses and siblings, parents and children obtained concessions from the Tsarist authorities regarding their loved ones' sentences of exile, helped off-set the poverty to which many exiles were reduced, and, above all, combated the sense of loneliness and depression to which those in exile were exposed. This article argues that such familial support had a collective and positive impact on revolutionaries' experience of exile. More broadly it provides an illuminating case study of the blurred space between public and private which the revolutionary occupied and highlights the way in which the movement depended on help from sympathizers and family members in order to function effectively on a daily basis.