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FORUM

demokrati, fred & rättvisa

Digital Diaries: Resistance, Self-Representation and Civic Journalism in the Russian-Language Internet

This seminar represents the initiation of a research project on blogging in the Russian-language Internet (Runet) in the context of the development of freedom of expression. Blogging on Runet builds upon cultural, religious and literary traditions of writing diaries, self-staging and carving out niches of free speech in the state-controlled information environment. Blogging on Runet reflects both global tendencies of ‘digital storytelling’, and culturally specific features of ‘domesticating’ the Internet in Russia. The intention of the project is to frame blogging as a rhetorical and cultural practice broadly defined, which produces and tests concepts and ideas. Keeping this in mind, the seminar will discuss the ambiguous impact of the digital communicative environment on the public sphere: on the one hand, it gives voice to the voiceless and fosters non-conformism; on the other hand, it gives ample possibilities for those in power to insidiously manipulate the public opinion in many ways, ranging from the deployment of the army of paid commentators to outsourcing of state propaganda to private bloggers.

The seminar is open for the public. **For further information and registration please contact Dr. Mikhail Suslov (mikhail.suslov@ucrs.uu.se).** The seminar is organized by the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies and Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace and Justice, in collaboration with the “Russian Media Lab project” conducted at Aleksanteri Institute, Helsinki.

Date: 29 April, 2016

Venue: UCRS Library, Gamla torget 3 (3rd Floor), Uppsala

Program

9.30 – 11.30 Dissent and Resistance in Blogosphere

Galina Nikiporets-Takigawa, ‘From the Active Blogging to the Political Leadership or to “The Parties without Leaders”’

Anastasia Denisova, ‘Parody Microbloggers as Chroniclers and Commentators on Russian Political Reality’

Sergiy Kurbatov, “Who are we? Where are we from? Where are we going?”: The Bloggers of “Ukrainian Pravda” and Their *Vox Populi*

Anton Semakin, ‘A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Twittering in Russia’ (the presentation will be held in Russian)

11.30 – 12.30 Lunch

12.30 – 14.30 Writing Diaries, Staging the Selves

Galina Zvereva, ‘Blogging in Russian Academia: Practices of Self-Representation’

Mikhail Suslov, ‘Staging the Self or Doing the Missionary Work: Orthodox Blogosphere in the Russian-Language Internet’

Saara Ratilainen, ‘Narratives of the Self and the Other: Digital Storytelling through Travel Images’

Irina Kotkina, ‘Self-representation in the World of Opera: What Do Blogs of Famous Russian Singers Tell About?’

14.30 – 15.00 General discussion

More information will be uploaded on the webpage of the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies (UCRS): <http://www.ucrs.uu.se/>.