

## **Russian Culture lecture series: Post-Soviet Russian culture**

### **1. Dmitri Tsiskarashvili: EU-RUSSIA RELATIONS**

The lecture will present a comprehensive analysis of the complexity of relations between the EU and Russia over the past 50 years.

The lecture will discuss the challenges facing EU-Russia relations nowadays and assess the implications of any broader geo-political and socio-economic issues which Russia and the EU could encounter in the near future. This lecture will also give students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the former Soviet Union countries which play a pivotal role in EU-Russia relations, particularly in regard to the implementation of Eastern Partnership programmes and the EU search for alternative energy suppliers to bypass Russia.

### **2. Justin Doherty: Russian rock music in the late Soviet and Post-Soviet periods:**

This lecture will survey some of the key trends, individuals and groups that defined Russian rock music in the later Soviet and early post-Soviet periods. We will pay particular attention to the importance of Russian-language lyrics in the Russian rock-music world (translations will be provided), as well the political contexts of rock music in these times.

### **3. Justin Doherty: Russian cinema of the 1990s: Aleksei Balabanov's *Brother***

Aleksei Balabanov (1959-2013) was a seminal figure in the world of post-Soviet film, and his 1997 gangster film *Brother* (Брат) is probably his most popular and at the same time most controversial work. This lecture will highlight key themes and ideas in the film, and explore the complex ways in which the film reflects both its contemporary world as well as 'timeless' Russian cultural questions.

### **4. Conny Opitz: Traditional culture in contemporary Russian society**

This talk discusses how traditional Russian culture and traditions are becoming commodified and globalised, while simultaneously being invoked and idealised in nationalist discourses of Russianness.

### **5. John Murray: *Moscow News*: The Making of a Documentary about a Russian Newspaper**

This lecture looks at the various stages in the making of a documentary on a Moscow daily newspaper, in the process examining the workings of the press in contemporary Russia.