Faculty Highlight - Pavel Spivakovsky

Joining us for the 2012-2013 Academic Year will be Pavel Spivakovsky, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Philology at Moscow State University, who will be providing classes here at Illinois on Solzhenitsyn, Modernist Russian Poetry, Contemporary Culture, and REEEC professionalization. Currently, he is leading the graduate discussion section of a course on Solzhenitsyn in tandem with Dr. Richard Tempest, and teaching a course on Modernist Russian Poetry in Russian for advanced students. In the spring, he will be conducting a course on Contemporary Russian Culture, as well as a REEEC professionalization course, which will teach students how to move around in the Russian academic sphere. This course will specialize in developing a unique set of academic skills such as how to develop a Russian CV, to find and present at Russian Conferences, and how to publish in Russian Journals.

Dr. Spivakovsky has taught at the Pushkin Russian Language Institute in Moscow and he became an Associate Professor at Moscow State University in 2011. However, Dr. Spivakovsky’s affiliation at Moscow State University did not start in 2011, for he has lectured at Moscow State University for the last decade on Russian postmodernism, and his efforts in this capacity has contributed to an important and significant part of his academic work. His research interests include Russian Postmodernism, polyphony in the works of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and the work of Vladimir Sorokin’s poetics. Dr. Spivakovsky is especially interested in Sorokin’s poetics in terms of its ethics, views on citizenship, as well as the problem of overcoming the consequences of totalitarian thought and pre-modern stereotypes in the works of Russian postmodernists. Currently, Dr. Spivakovsky’s research focuses on the emergence of a new version of postmodernism in the context of the newest Russian reality.

As to his being affiliated with Illinois, he states that he has “long admired the University of Illinois, its professors and their very high professionalism, as well as the breadth of their outlook ever since [he] visited here in connection with the Fisher Forum on Solzhenitsyn in summer 2007. [He] particularly likes the feeling of intellectual freedom in this place.”