

## Editorial

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*Executive Editor, Slovo 2013-2014*

*Slovo* is a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary academic journal run by postgraduate students at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. Spanning across humanities and social sciences, the journal covers all issues concerning Russia, Eurasia, Central and Eastern Europe. While seeking to provide a publishing opportunity both to outstanding young researchers and established academics, *Slovo* is a unique voice for the regions covered. In our third year as a digital publication, we hope to reach out to a wider audience and to continue sharing our academic discoveries internationally.

The current, concluding issue of Volume 26 might not fully reflect the interdisciplinary scope of *Slovo*, however it has its merits. We are proud to share with our readers a unique English language interview with possibly one of the most outstanding contemporary philosophers in Russia, Professor Fyodor Girenok of Moscow State University. Siberian-born, Girenok addresses the metaphysics and phenomenology of the human condition and has published extensively in Russia. Girenok is notable for his philosophical charisma and innovative approaches to philosophical debates, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to carry out and publish his first ever interview translated into English here, in *Slovo*. Our article, 'Truth is Stranger than Science Fiction: The Quest for Knowledge in Andrei Tarkovskii's *Solaris* and *Stalker*', by Thomas Mclenachan is an insightful exploration of Tarkovskii's renowned tensions with the science fiction genre. Mclenachan examines the very core of this tension by identifying Tarkovskii's deeply-held beliefs that have informed his creative process and have permeated his works. By analysing the transformation of the novels, *Roadside Picnic* (1971) by the Strugatskii brothers and *Solaris* (1961) by Stanisław Lem, into the iconic Tarkovskian works, *Stalker* (1979) and *Solaris* (1972), the author uncovers a revealing philosophy that undermined Tarkovskii's faith in science fiction, and scientific truths.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire 2013-2014 *Slovo* editorial board for their time, energy, and enthusiasm throughout this year. This issue would not have been possible without the precious hours of editing and proof-reading you have all put into it. I would like to especially thank the Managing Editor, Joris Zantvoort, Reviews Editors Nikolay Nikolov and Inese Strupule, Public Relations duo Olivia Humphrey and Caroline de Boos, and, crucially, our digital archivist Chloe Messenger, as well as all of our General Editors who have so generously offered their time and professional support to this academic publication. In my final gratitude I am indebted to *Slovo*'s former Executive Editor, Kristen Hartmann, for her ever optimistic and invaluable useful guidance throughout the process.

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