Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies 2017/18 Ziegler Lecture Series

Post-Imperial Eurasia and Fragmented Europe in Vladimir Sorokin's *Telluria*



Thurs Mar 1, 2018 | 12:30-1:30pm | Buchanan Tower 997

Russian writer Vladimir Sorokin's fiction transcends national borders both physically and figuratively. Not only is he widely read abroad, but also the settings of his works have stretched across the whole Eurasian continent, exploring Russia's place in the global order. Sorokin's foray into the future of Russian statehood stemmed from his resentment at the popularity of Eurasianism—a conservative neo-imperialist ideology—in post-Soviet Russia. This talk will concentrate on how Eurasianist ideas influenced contemporary literary production, and how Sorokin uses them to interrogate Russian society. Sorokin's *Telluria* (2013) imagines how Eurasianism, by competing and, at times, collaborating with nationalist, fundamentalist religious,

and segregationist ideas, results in a complete geopolitical remake of the Furasian continent.

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