

New Realism in

Modern Russian Literature

and the Decay of Liberal Ideas



Bibliothèque nationale
de Luxembourg

The National Library of Luxembourg and the Russian Centre of Culture and Science are pleased to invite you to the conference

New Realism in Modern Russian Literature and the Decay of Liberal Ideas

28th September 2015 / 6:30 p.m.
National Library of Luxembourg,
Salle des Arts

Contemporary Russian literature is increasingly political. Yet even without direct involvement in social and political issues, it reflects the major shifts in Russian life. At the end of the last century, one of the most famous writers of the time, Vladimir Sorokin, could undress and take a picture of himself hugging a statue of Brezhnev and it was considered a sufficient artistic and intellectual gesture. Nowadays, however, this kind of postmodernist irony with its absurd and destructive power is not enough to attract readers' attention. To succeed today, a writer is supposed to tell a compelling story. And this means returning to good old realism. Andrei Gelasimov will tackle key concepts in present-day Russian literature and illustrate how Russian postmodernism with its liberal concepts is making way for a new realism.

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**Given by renowned Russian author,
Andrei Gelasimov**

Born in Irkutsk in 1965, Andrei Gelasimov studied foreign languages at Yakutsk State University and directing at Moscow Theatre Institute. He became an overnight literary sensation in 2001 with his critically-acclaimed story *A Tender Age*. His novels have regularly enjoyed critical acclaim and popular success in Russia and throughout Europe. *Rachel* is his fourth novel to be published in English, following *Thirst*, *The Lying Year*, and *Gods of the Steppe*, winner of Russia's National Bestseller Prize in 2009. Gelasimov adapted *Thirst* for the screen and the film went on to win the Jury Prize at the Sochi Open Russian Film Festival.

Kindly RSVP by 23rd September 2015 either by email (info@bnl.etat.lu) or fax (+352 475672).

The conference will be held in English.



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