

HISTORY OF HUMANITIES SERIES
SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES & CULTURES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

OPEN WORLD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

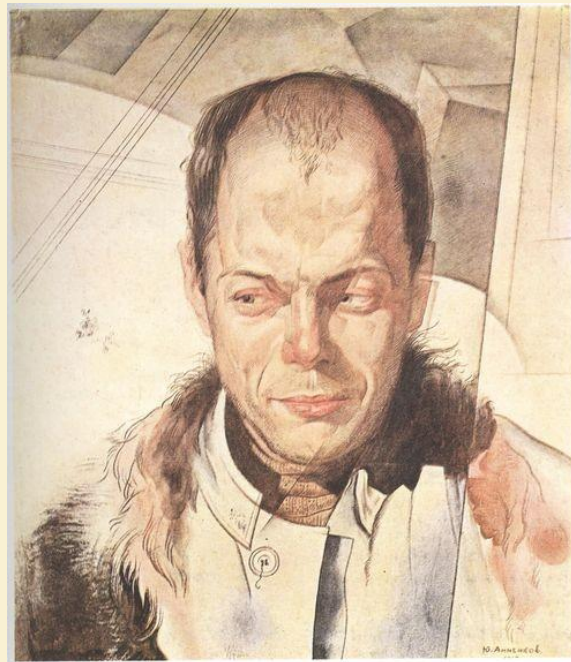
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World Literature, War, Revolution:
Viktor Shklovsky's *Sentimental Journey*

Thursday, 25th January 2017, 4.30pm, ER1, A29

The event is organised as part of the AHRC-funded
Cross-Language Dynamics programme of research



The paper uncovers the Russian Formalist Viktor Shklovsky's previously overlooked engagement with the idea of 'world literature'. By examining Shklovsky's memoir *A Sentimental Journey*, devoted to the critical period of revolution and war (1917-22), the paper discusses Shklovsky's active involvement in, and reaction to, early Soviet post-revolutionary constructions of 'world literature' – above all Maxim Gorky's eponymous project *Vsemirnaia literatura*. At the same time, the paper places Shklovsky's commitment to the idea of 'world literature' in the context of our contemporary debates on the subject. To understand 'world literature' as a specific construct, we must ask the question about the location of 'world literature' vis-à-vis language. This has important consequences for how we interpret the dispersed legacy of modern literary theory, in the founding of which Shklovsky had played such a crucial role.

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