

'West Coast Seminars'
on
Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe
(Glasgow, West of Scotland [Paisley campus] and Strathclyde Universities)
Sixteenth Annual Series 2009-2010

in collaboration with
the Annual Terry Wade Memorial Lecture Series

Inaugural Lecture

'How many Slavonic languages are there?'

Dr John Dunn

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and Cultures) University of Glasgow**

**Wednesday 07 October 2009
at 5.30 pm**

University of Glasgow, Room T316, Adam Smith Building

Tea and coffee will be available from 5.00

All Welcome

Is the language (formerly?) known as Serbo-Croat now to be considered one, two, three or four languages? Are there one or two Sorbian languages? And what about the speakers of Rusyn, Resian or Silesian? To whom does it matter? And why? Adhering to the principle that the any question posed in the title of a formal lecture should be academic, this paper will consider the various linguistic, political and cultural factors that make a single answer to this question impossible and examine how these factors are combining in post-Cold-War Europe to create a new and complex paradigm of language status and function.

John Dunn taught for thirty years in the Slavonic Languages/Studies Department/Section of Glasgow University. In 2006 he defected to Bologna, where he continues to contemplate questions relating to the Russian language, the Russian mass media and the replotting of the linguistic map of Europe in the period since 1990.

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