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### Office Newspeak: Russian Vocabulary of the Twenty-first Century

From clerks and assistances (depreciatingly named “office plankton”) to supervisors, general managers and heads of office, office workers make up one of the biggest and most prestigious social and professional groups in modern Russia. Over time, this group has developed its own vocabulary (e.g. V.Kutyry’s “The dictionary of “office plankton” <http://www.proza.ru/2009/07/01/303>; “From “asap” to “fakap” – the slang of Moscow offices” <http://hr-portal.ru/article/ot-asapa-do-fakapa-sleng-moskovskih-ofisov>, etc), new speech etiquette and special strategies of text generation.

Although the office “newspeak” has been a constant target of parodies and jokes, it has actually had a great impact on modern Russian discourse. The vocabulary and communication strategies of “effective managers” are popular among Russian political elite, celebrities and even the Orthodox clergy.

This presentation will discuss the vocabulary of office newspeak, including loan words ( \_пролонгировать, акцептовать, кейс, воркшоп, бонус\_), slang words ( \_схематоз, окэшить\_), and specific expressions ( \_я вас услышал, согласились, хороших выходных\_), and will devote particular attention to the different models of communication employed by office workers when interacting with the clients, colleagues, bosses and subordinates.