Andrei Egunov-Nikolev: Beyond Tula, A Soviet Pastoral

Academic Studies Press, 2019

Andrei Egunov-Nikolev’s *Beyond Tula* is an uproarious romp through the earnestly boring and unintentionally campy world of early Soviet “production” prose, with its celebration of robust workers heroically building socialism. Combining burlesque absurdism and lofty references to classical and Russian High Modernist literature with a rather tongue-in-cheek plot about the struggles of an industrializing rural proletariat, this “Soviet pastoral” actually appeared in the official press in 1931 (though it was quickly removed from circulation). As a renegade classics scholar, Egunov was aware of the expressive potential latent in so-called “light genres”—*Beyond Tula* is a modernist pastoral jaunt that leaves the reader with plenty to ponder.
Yuri Tynianov: Permanent Evolution, Selected Essays on Literature, Theory and Film

Academic Studies Press, 2019

Yuri Tynianov was a key figure of Russian Formalism, an intellectual movement in early 20th century Russia that also included Viktor Shklovsky and Roman Jakobson. Tynianov developed a groundbreaking conceptualization of literature as a system within—and in constant interaction with—other cultural and social systems. His essays on Russian literary classics, like Pushkin’s *Eugene Onegin* and works by Dostoevsky and Gogol, as well as on the emerging art form of filmmaking, provide insight into the ways art and literature evolve and adapt new forms of expression. Although Tynianov was first a scholar of Russian literature, his ideas transcend the boundaries of any one genre or national tradition. *Permanent Evolution* gathers together for the first time Tynianov’s seminal articles on literary theory and film, including several articles never before translated into English.
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Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature: Democratic Cultures and Populist Imaginaries

Narr Francke Attempto, 2019

In the 1960s, the American historian Richard Hofstadter characterized right-wing populism as expressive of a “paranoid style” of politics. Whereas Hofstadter denounced populism as a threat to democracy, apologists for contemporary populist movements have defended them as a corrective to political contradictions internal to liberal democracy. These remarks suggest that U.S. populist movements cannot be understood apart from their relationships to American democratic cultures that they can either supplement, antagonize or, as in the recent example of Donald Trump, threaten to displace altogether. If that is the case, can the concept of American democratic culture provide a framework for the interpretation and critique of contemporary American populisms? Have contemporary United States writers, artists and activists imagined modes of democratic sociality that constitute the precondition for yet are irreducible to extant populist imaginaries? How has the fracturing of the media infrastructure contributed to Donald Trump’s strain of populism? Do the modes of analysis devised to diagnose twentieth century populisms provide adequate frameworks to understand Trump’s movement? The disparate yet complementary perspectives from which its contributors engage these and related questions promise to enhance the explanatory potential of this volume.
Dimensions of Normativity: New Essays on Metaethics and Jurisprudence

Oxford University Press, 2019

Understood one way, the branch of contemporary philosophical ethics that goes by the label “metaethics” concerns certain second-order questions about ethics—questions not in ethics, but rather ones about our thought and talk about ethics, and how the ethical facts (insofar as there are any) fit into reality. Analogously, the branch of contemporary philosophy of law that is often called “general jurisprudence” deals with certain second-order questions about law—questions not in the law, but rather ones about our thought and talk about the law, and how legal facts (insofar as there are any) fit into reality. Put more roughly (and using an alternative spatial metaphor), metaethics concerns a range of foundational questions about ethics, whereas general jurisprudence concerns analogous questions about law. As these characterizations suggest, the two sub-disciplines have much in common, and could be thought to run parallel to each other. Yet, the connections between the two are currently mostly ignored by philosophers, or at least under-scrutinized. The new essays collected in this book are aimed at changing this state of affairs. Dimensions of Normativity collects together works by metaethicists and legal philosophers that address a number of issues that are of common interest, with the goal of accomplishing a new rapprochement between the two sub-disciplines.