

הקתדרה ללימודים רוסיים ע"ש תמרה וסבלי גרינברג
Tamara and Saveli Grinberg Chair in Russian Studies
The Department of Russian and Slavic Studies and Tamara and Saveli Grinberg Chair in Russian Studies
(The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
invite you to the lecture

"The Genius of Moderation" and the National Question

by

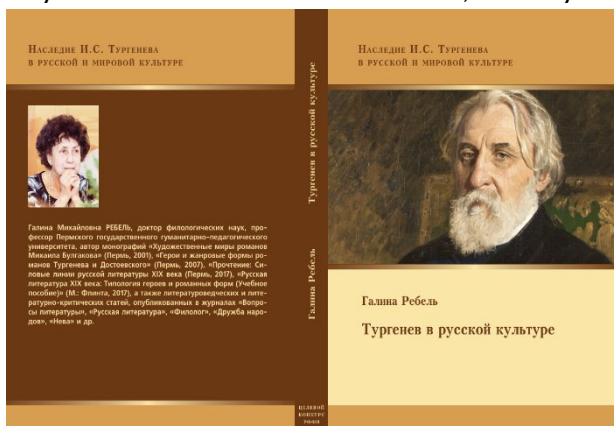
Galina Rebel

(the lecture will be given in Russian)

Tuesday, May 5, 12:30 Jerusalem | 11:30 CET | 12:30 MSK

via Zoom: <https://huji.zoom.us/j/87148733370?pwd=FhmoFoHZO98rLmTXZMwfYN8jBazOmO.1>

D.S. Merezhkovsky described I.S. Turgenev as a “genius of moderation.” He argued that, unlike the “great creators and destroyers, L. Tolstoy and F. Dostoevsky,” Turgenev was “our only defender—a conservative who, like any true conservative, is at the same time a liberal.”



Liberalism presupposes tolerance in matters of nationality.

However, Merezhkovsky's contemporary V.E. Jabotinsky pointed to Russian literature as the most compelling and irrefutable evidence of contemptuous attitudes toward non-Russians. In this regard, he cited Turgenev's story “The Jew” as an example, calling it “implausible to the point of naivety.”

More recent scholarship has offered contrasting interpretations of Turgenev's work, viewing it both as an expression of cosmopolitanism and as aligned with the nationalist

program of the Russian state.

In this context, the paper will focus on the following aspects:

- Turgenev's socio-political stance on the national question
- The story “The Jew” (1846–1847): publication history, artistic features, and interpretation
- “The Jew” within *A Sportsman's Sketches*: the story “The End of Chertopkhanov” (1874)
- The reasons for Turgenev's silence on the anti-Jewish pogroms of the early 1880s

Galina Rebel is Doctor of Philology and Professor at Perm State Humanitarian and Pedagogical University, and the author of several monographs and many research articles on Russian literature of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Among her publications on the topic of the lecture:

- Rebel, G.M. [“Genii mery”: Turgenev v russkoi kul'ture](#) // *Voprosy literatury*, 2009, no. 6, pp. 305–348.
- Rebel, G.M. [Pochemu luchshii russkii chelovek ne vystupil protiv evreiskikh pogromov](#) // *Voprosy literatury*, 2021, no. 2, pp. 13–53.
- Rebel, G.M. [Vsemirnaya otzyvchivost' Turgeneva. Po materialam literaturno-epistol'noy antologii “S Turgenevym vo Frantsii”](#) // *Voprosy literatury*, 2020, no. 2, pp. 196–231.
- Rebel, G.M. [Turgenev v zerkale sovremennoi kul'turologii](#) // *Voprosy literatury*, 2018, no. 6, pp. 142–166.