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### **Other Worlds: Magical Historicism and Heterotopia in Contemporary Russian Literature**

This paper builds upon my recent research into how the Foucauldian concept of heterotopias may help literary scholars to interpret the magic realist aspects of alternative history novels by Vladimir Sharov and Evgenii Vodolazkin. It also utilizes Aleksandr Etkind's concept of 'magical historicism' - a redefinition of magical realism, typically characterized by dark or Gothic-fantastic elements, applied specifically to post-Soviet authors who fictionalize the heritage of the Stalinist past. In this paper, I extend the notions of heterotopia and magical historicism to three recent novels which explore questions of ethics and cultural identity through more or less radical violations and inversions of historical time: Evgenii Vodolazkin's 2009 "Solov'yev and Larionov", Elena Chizhova's "The Sinologist" (2017), and Yuri Buida's latest novel (due 2018; partially published in "Snob" magazine as "The Fifth Empire"). All three are major contemporary writers of literary prose, who use the tools of historical realism (often, in Vodolazkin's novels, a screen for constructing historical unreality), Gothic black humour and (in Chizhova's case) science fiction, to re-examine Russia's history of conflict and regime change. This paper will form part of a larger project to find a conceptual framework for interpreting Russian post-traumatic writing.