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### **What is Meant by the “Severnyj Tekst”?**

Our joint presentation will look at the revival of the North as a cultural concept and as a symbol of a spatial-ideological point of reference, deployed in the 2000s among Russian literary and cultural studies scholars. As a national point of compass the North is not a new concept, but it has symbolized Russia's changing self-image, and the shift from East to North since the eighteenth century (e.g. Boele 1996).

In the context of the currently conceptualized “severnyj tekst”, coined by Russian literary and cultural studies scholars as an equivalent to the “St. Petersburg text”, the “North” forms a constituent part of the “meta-text” in which the (Russian) North is seen “as a mythopoetic space” entailing the “secret of the Russian life, Russian history, Russian culture, Russian spirituality, the Russian soul itself, as well as the secret of the Russian poetic word” (Galimova 2012).

We will discuss the concept of the current “Northern text” in two contexts: we posit that the concept of the “Northern text” indicates the shift from deconstruction to myth-making as part of the transition of cultural discourses taking place after the 1990s both in literature and in literary studies. Besides that, while recreating the romantic myth of the North, the concept sustains the national self-justification in connection to the Arctic myth as a geopolitical and a symbolic space of suffering that is nonetheless generative of Russian culture.