Aleksandra Pahomova On perfumes and love in the works of Mikhail Kuzmin

The article analyses the olfactory code in Mikhail Kuzmin's poetics and considers the role of perfumery in the formation of his literary reputation. There are three cases when the name of a specific perfume appears in Kuzmin's work or other texts associated with him. We try to explain the reasons for their appearance. It is believed that perfumes are used as a 'signal', and herald the appearance of Kuzmin. Moreover, particular perfumes play the role of signs of a certain time. Also, the special use of the word 'perfumery' gives Kuzmin an excuse to enter into a literary polemic. Perfumes are always accompanied by the love theme in Kuzmin's work.

Žanna Tšernova & Meri Kulmala Foster parenting in contemporary Russia – work or love?

The article explores the professionalisation of foster parenting in the context of the ongoing child welfare and so-called alternative care reforms in Russia through the concept of 'care'. We analyse how foster parents who live in children's villages see and define their role and the meaning of their activity based on focus group and thematic interviews with foster parents in five children's villages in Russia. Foster parenting is understood through a dichotomy of 'love' and 'work'. Seeing foster parenting as love is based on an understanding of it as a moral obligation and ethical value. In such a case, it becomes impossible to consider care as something official that exists under regulation and is led by bureaucratic and market principles. Understanding care as work, in turn, makes it possible for foster parents to rationalise their own activity and problematise their status in Russian society. In this case, the professionalisation of foster parenting is seen as a solution to multiple problems that foster parents face, and to the improvement of the status of this type of care more generally.