Abstract: The first annual workshop “Formal Semantics in Moscow”, organized by a team of young Russian linguists with mentoring by Barbara Partee, was held at Moscow State University on Saturday April 23. The workshop was informal and friendly, like the student-run New England Semantics workshops; there were 12 papers and attendance of about 30. Anna Verbuk gave a paper, and there were papers from Leipzig and from St. Petersburg as well as from Moscow. Everyone was delighted with the results.
RGGU, some from various institutes of the Academy of Sciences – advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and young researchers. Three of the talks were in English and the rest in Russian. Two talks used Power Point (using what was originally to be posters), and all the others used handouts. There were about 30 people in attendance.

Authors and titles (my translations of the Russian titles, maybe not always perfect.)

0. Opening words, Barbara Partee, UMass, RGGU, and MGU.
1. George Bronnikov, RGGU, Vsjakij [an untranslatable Russian determiner, something like “every kind of.”]
2. Elisaveta (Lisa) Bylinina, MGU, Depreciative Indefinites in Russian.
10. Anna Verbuk, UMass. The Semantics and Pragmatics of Russian Predicate Clefts.
12. Alexander Letuchij, RGGU. Russian Constructions with the Meaning of Comparison of Situations: kak budto, kak by, kak esli by.

The workshop ended at 6pm and was followed by tea in the main office of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics of MGU. Everyone agreed the workshop had been a great success; new acquaintances were made, the feedback on the presentations was all very friendly, constructive, and useful, and everyone expressed hopes that this would become an annual tradition. Peter Arkadiev has proposed to create a FSIM website and to post copies of the handouts and as many as possible of the full papers there, and has suggested that a number of the papers might be published in a special number of one of the Moscow linguistics journals. Plans for that are still pending. The only regrets were that Igor Yanovich, one of the organizers, was unable to attend because commitments at his workplace, that two or three of the planned participants were unable to participate because of illness, and that class schedules for Saturday classes made it impossible for some people to attend who would have liked to. (One faculty member, Yakov Teselets, reported with regret on Sunday that he would have liked to attend at least the morning session but had a class then; but then it turned out that all but one of his students had cut his class to come to the workshop anyway. We’ll have to try to see if anything can be done to solve such problems next year.)