Ural Federal University

Institute of Social and Political Sciences

Call for Papers

Interdisciplinary conference, **April 6-7, 2015**

**Modernity Junctures: Exploring New Vistas in the Study of Society**

Neoliberal management pressures modern scholars to search for new ways of ensuring the continuity of their research work. The very survival of some disciplines can be at stake, if we are to take seriously the current practice of ranking scholars according to the measurable outcomes, or ‘deliverables,’ which often include journal publication activity and commercial convertibility of research results. Gearing the higher education towards demands of the market downgrades the social theoretical knowledge and the humanities, which inevitably score low in the rankings inherently hostile to the idea of the university and disparaging of the ideal of *humanitas*.

The situation outside academia is not in any way more favorable to the social knowledge and the humanities. On the one hand, in the globalizing world, the role of the guardians of the national cultures that was formerly often attributed to social theory and the humanities loses its credibility. On the other hand, academic scholars’ self-understanding as *Kulturträger* is challenged by the growing consumerism and mediatisation in the cultural sphere.

While the administrative and financial resources are distributed on the criteria that calculatedly discriminate against certain types of knowledge, and while neither traditional functions of preserving cultural heritage nor modern idea of social criticism can any longer justify the support of the intellectual pursuits that social theorists and students of humanities have been finding interest in for centuries, many academics seek to adopt various strategies of recasting their research. They negotiate new interdisciplinary alliances; they engage in methodological maneuvering; they explore subjects previously tended to by other kinds of intellectuals.

To what extent the skills of subtle textual interpretation can be joined to the analysis of social institutions? Is their substantive discrepancy between the narratives of modernity as they are told within social theory and within the humanities? Is there a definable body of ideas and authoritative texts equally inspiring for social theory and the humanities? What is the experience of teaching social theory and the humanities at science and technology tracks in the higher education institutions?

The organizers of the conference welcome presentations on a broad range of topics, including, but not limited to the following:

* the role of the academic research in late modernity;
* humanities education in contemporary society;
* interdisciplinary strategies of studying modern society;
* corporate solidarity among academics in contemporary society.

The presentations selected by the Organization Committee will be published in the journal “Izvestia of Ural Federal University. Series 3 - Social and Political Sciences” (Ekaterinburg, Russia)

*Conference languages*: English, Russian

Keynote speakers will include:

Maxim Khomyakov (Ural Federal University, Russia)

Vlad Strukov (Leeds University, Great Britain)

Elena Trubina (Ural Federal University, Russia)

*Application requirements*:

Please, send the information including your name, position, institution, contact details, the title of your presentation and a 300-word abstract (in English or Russian) before **March 2, 2014** to **isps.politphilos@gmail.com**. Those selected to give presentations at the conference will be contacted by **March 15, 2014**.