



### **Call for Papers:**

#### **“Knowledge Exchange in the Post-Socialist Black Sea Region: From Closed Systems to Dialogue”**

Conference organized by

Moldova State University, Department of Philosophy and Anthropology

<https://filosofieantropologie.wordpress.com/>

Chişinău, Md - 2009, Alexe Mateevici street,60

**22 – 23 September 2021**

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30.06.2021

#### Frame & aim

The most significant trend in the development of the academic environment and the exchange of knowledge is overcoming the barriers that limit this exchange. Opportunities for this are provided both by scientific and technological progress, which led to a sharp increase in the possibilities of communication means, and by the removal of ideological differences. Just as the era of religious wars ended in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the era of ideological wars ended in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In the post-ideological era, the political ideology as such does not disappear but it can no longer claim to be a meta-construct into which the logic of historical and even political events can be inscribed. The attempts made in this direction compete with conspiracy theories and political myths. The understanding of the scientific picture of the world is also changing: its creation is influenced by irrational forms of cognition and pluralism in the description of the world becomes the norm. Democratization is also manifested in the actualization of postcolonial studies and the expansion of their problematics: in addition to comprehending the constructions of Orientalism, narrow-mindedness and Balkanism are overcome. Dehierarchization leads to a revision of the role of the state and of the hierarchically structured academic institutions: international teams are created to study problem fields and horizontal links play an important role in their formation: both between individual universities and laboratories, and between individual researchers. A new research structure is being formed, whose members can be recruited from the academic environment, but it also can include researchers who have not made an academic career. This structure is focused on researching topical problem fields with grant support.

The Bologna process and European grant programs allow increasing the level of mobility of researchers, which helps to overcome stereotypes and identify the general and specific aspects in the processes of socio-cultural transformations of our time. Postmodernism led to decanonization, which manifests itself in the increase of the importance of interdisciplinary research, to the use of the methods of one discipline in the research of another discipline. The mean of democratization is the Internet space: it not only provides the possibility of building a configuration of horizontal links, but also helps to include representatives of different informational spaces in it: automatic translation mechanisms erase linguistic boundaries. The role of the Internet space in accelerating the exchange



of knowledge is incontestable: like cities that became catalysts for the exchange of information at the dawn of civilizations, internet spaces play this role in a rapidly virtualizing reality or in an increasingly real virtual reality. The Internet space is gradually absorbing the spheres of social life and revolutionizing the process of producing new knowledge. If the industrial revolution automated material production, now, in the course of the information revolution, automation penetrates into the sphere of intellectual production. The versatility of the Internet space contributes to its participation in another socio-cultural transformation: communication visualization.

There is a transition from the “culture of the text” to the “culture of the image”. Now, not only texts create meanings, but also images that can be visual. As a result, the image became a source in the scientific field, which led to the emergence of visual anthropology. The philosopher Slavoj Žižek tried to express himself using the language of cinema quotes. Also, Internet memes have become a common method of communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Most often, they use to achieve a comic effect, but the possibilities of their application in communication are not exhausted by this. The methodological basis for the analysis of visual images and memes is semiotic research. This methodology is universal for the study of different sign systems and can be used in the study of the evolution of everyday life. This perspective can also be used to research the academic environment. The widespread use of another methodology – the methodology of oral history – is associated not only with technical capabilities, but also with a new trend in humanitarian research: the interest is shown not in an event, but in the difference of its reflections in mental constructions.

An important socio-cultural factor in the transformation of the academic environment is the impact of globalization. One of the trends in the development of the academic environment is associated with the social aspect: the education system is partly becoming the sphere of providing educational services, which has led to a sharp increase of the number of universities and an increase of the importance of the applied specialties.

The conference will examine the results of the transition to an open society under the influence of such factors as globalization and de-ideologization. It will be considered to what extent the BSR countries, being directly or indirectly in the sphere of influence of geopolitical, economic, ideological world centers, differ in the level of integration into the modern information space and also to what extent this factor, despite gaining independence by many of these countries, affects the process of institutionalization of new forms of cultural and research exchange today. It will also consider the regional specifics of the manifestation of trends in the development of the academic environment in the BSR countries during the reference period.

#### Objectives:

With this conference, we would like to invite scholars to contribute to a systematic research of this issue from different scholarly disciplines in the humanities interested in themes including (but not limited to):

- Paradigm shifts in the humanities
- Postcolonial studies in the Black Sea Region
- The implications of the integration of the Black Sea Region into the European Research Area (ERA)



- Sociocultural aspects in the transformation of the academic environment
- The reorganization and restructuring of universities and academies of science
- Newly established networks of knowledge exchange in education and academia
- Brain drain and diaspora – the role of migration in post-socialist BSR education and academia
- Problems and prospects of the evolution of the academic environment of the Black Sea Region during the post-socialist period
- New methodologies and new fields of research in the studies of the Black Sea Region
- "From the culture of texts to the culture of images" – visualization and discourses in the humanities
- "Virtual reality" – academic activity in/and the internet

We are currently planning to have the conference as a two-day hybrid event so please indicate whether you'd be interested in joining the in-person day or the online day when submitting your proposal. There is no fee for participation in the conference, but the organizers do unfortunately not have the possibility to cover the participants' expenses for travel and accommodation. English will serve as the main conference language. Please send 300-word proposals for 20-minute papers along with a short academic CV to Prof. Dr. Eudochia Saharneau ([saharneau.eudochia@gmail.com](mailto:saharneau.eudochia@gmail.com)) no later than **30 June 2021**. We will inform you on the follow-up procedure when sending out the letters of acceptance (within three weeks after the deadline).

A selection of papers presented at the conference will be published in a special volume in 2022.

The conference is organized within the project "Knowledge Exchange and Academic Cultures in the Humanities. Europe and the Black Sea Region", an MSCA-RISE-project funded by the European Commission. Further information may be found on [www.blacksearegion.eu](http://www.blacksearegion.eu)

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