

"The time of ideas: Problems of temporality in intellectual history"

This conference, encouraged by the Academy of Europe, took place at the Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU), on June 18-19, 2021, online. Nine papers were presented in Russian and English, issuing from different disciplinary fields - from philosophy to the history of linguistics and of medicine. Below are their abstracts.

Maria Neklyudova (Moscow), "Small causes of great events': The evolution of an idea in French historiography of the 17th-18th centuries". The famous Pascal's utterance about "Cleopatra's nose" whose length could change the world was followed by later French authors, as Labruyère and Voltaire. Its use reveals a specific conception of historical temporality.

Ilona Svetlikova, Varvara Kukushkina, Pavel Yushin, Maria Fesenko (Saint-Petersburg), "The laws of movement of celestial bodies': The history of astronomy and Copernicus' image in the age of positivism". The paper examined popular representations of the astronomy in the 19th century, as for example its hypothetical invention by the Chaldean shepherds, and also the idea of "law" attributed to the celestial bodies and presented as a model of scientific principle.

Boris Maslov (Oslo), "Having taken the side of the father, our epic has blackened the son': The comparative semantic of recognition in Alexander Veselovsky". The speaker focused on the theory of recognition (*anagnorisis*) in Russian epic, elaborated by the great philologist Veselovsky. Various kinds of recognition correspond to different literary genres, and Veselovsky analyzes them through a recurrent epic theme: the battle between a father and his son.

Igor Smirnov (Konstanz), "How the ideas resist their displacement from the socio-cultural circulation". Ideas, the speaker claimed, can either adapt to a new intellectual context, or challenge new systems of ideas by declaring them fallacious. He exemplified these two ways of resistance by the 20th century intellectual history, namely by the reinterpretation of biological models in the literary Symbolism.

Xenia Gusarova (Moscow), "A new archaism: The humoral theory in the 19th century hydrotherapy". The method of cure by cold water, employed by the Austrian healer Vincenz Priessnitz, appears as an avatar of the seemingly outdated humoral theories in medicine. This illustrates an unequal progression of time in intellectual culture, where "surviving" ideas may be reinvented in special new institutional conditions.

Anatoly Korchinsky (Moscow), "The time of the real: Paradigms of realism in the history of 'modernity'". We witness now a return of reflection on the "realism", in philosophy, political thought, ethics and aesthetics. The paper intended to distinguish between different aspects of that paradigm, from the idea of estranged "reality" in Russian Formalism to the contemporary philosophy of speculative realism.

Mikhail Maiatsky (Lausanne), "Fairy-tales about 'the modern': Scholastics, Heidegger, and the Neuzzeit". The speaker focused on different modes of conceiving of intellectual time, especially in philosophy. As an

example, he tracked down the formation of the idea of modernity in the 19th and 20th centuries, in particular in Heidegger's critique of the "new times".

Patrick Flack (Fribourg), "Structuralism and its times". The temporality of structuralism, the speaker claimed, is related to its definition and cannot be reduced to the "Parisian" intellectual fashion of the 1960s. It must include also the early Structuralism of the 20-30s, as well as the roots of structural thinking in Kant, Humboldt and Goethe.

Ekaterina Velmezova (Lausanne), "The notion of 'epistemic expectation' in the history of humanities". The perception of a scholarly event is often determined by a paradigm or *epistheme* dominating at that moment. The paper illustrated this phenomenon by an analysis of the "linguistic discussion" in the USSR, which took place in the beginning of the 1950s.

The thematic diversity of the papers, embracing different epochs and disciplines, was balanced by two main commitments shared by the speakers. Some of them attempted to outline the temporal laws of intellectual evolution, and others described particular cases of that evolution (in historiography, literary theory, and so on). This theoretical convergence of papers made the discussion quite intense, and the participants felt enthusiastic about the conference.

A publication of proceedings will be prepared, in Russian, probably in the *Messenger* of the RGGU in 2022.

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