

Dear colleagues,

I would like to inform you about the plans of scientific activities of the Centre for medieval culture studies of 2013-2015. If you are interested in our projects, please send a preliminary application as soon as possible, with an indication of your academic status and proposed topic of your paper. It is necessary for searching for grants and funding. Of course, it would be pleasant if you give this information to your colleagues. Besides, I am glad to present information about our Society of young scholars of Faculty of Philosophy. I hope that you have young colleagues who can be interested to collaborate with them.

Sincerely

Prof. Oleg Dushin

St. Petersburg State University

Faculty of Philosophy

St. Petersburg Philosophical Society

Department of History of Philosophy

Center for Medieval Culture Studies

St. Petersburg Society for Study of Cultural Heritage of Nicholas of Cusa

St. Petersburg Martin Luther Society

#### **Scientific projects in 2013-2015:**

International seminar "The History of Conscience in European thought" in the frameworks of "Days of St. Petersburg Philosophy - 2013", November 2013, Saint-Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg

We are planning to discuss the following philosophical and theological conceptions of conscience:

1. Ancient origins of the concept of conscience: from the Greek tragedy till the Roman Stoicism.
2. Conscience as a principle of Christian moral consciousness.
3. The concept of conscience in the teaching of Augustine.
4. Conscience in the Byzantine theological tradition.
5. Conscience and synderesis in Medieval Scholasticism.
6. Conscience in the doctrine of Martin Luther and the Protestant religiously literature.
7. Conscience in the ethical conceptions of Modernity thinkers: from John Locke to Kant and Hegel.
8. Modern ethical researches and the understanding of conscience.
9. Conscience in the history of Russian literature, philosophy and theology.

International Conference "Meister Eckhart and St. Gregory Palamas: the Actuality of Spiritual Experience", June 2014, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg

We are planning to discuss the significance of spiritual experience of two prominent European Christian thinkers:

1. Spiritual experience and mystical practice of Meister Eckhart.
2. The teaching of Meister Eckhart about God and man.
3. The tradition of German mysticism: from Meister Eckhart till Nicholas of Cusa.
4. Meister Eckhart and Reformation teaching of Martin Luther.
5. Meister Eckhart and the German philosophical tradition.
6. The spiritual experience of St. Gregory Palamas.

7. The teaching of St. Gregory Palamas about God and man.
8. The doctrine of St. Gregory Palamas on the Divine Energy.
9. St. Gregory Palamas and Hesychasm.
10. Hesychasm practice in the tradition of Russian monasticism.
11. St. Gregory Palamas and the Russian Religiously Philosophy and Orthodox Theology.

International seminar on "Confession and Repentance: the formation of European personality" in the frameworks of "Days of St. Petersburg Philosophy-2015"; November 2015, Saint-Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg.

We are planning to discuss the history and the social significance of the Christian sacrament of confession and practice of repentance:

1. The history of formation and development of the sacrament of confession: from early Christianity till the Modern times.
2. The tradition of medieval "librorum penitentiales" and formation of moral demands of confession.
3. The sacrament of confession and the medieval theological literature of "casus conscience".
4. Confessor and penitent: the rules and procedure of the sacrament of confession.
5. Duties of the Confessor: moral norms of the activity of Priests.
6. Believer as confessed and contrite: incorporation and internalization of moral consciousness.
7. Psychology of faith: confession and repentance as a socio-historical practice of Christianity.
8. The sacrament of confession in the history of Russian Orthodoxy: the theological tradition and Church practice.
9. Modern cultural studies on the significance and role of the sacrament of confession in the development of the European personality.

### **The Union of young scholars**

Who we are

We are now and we want to be in the future an informal, non-official community of young Russian philosophy researchers and PhD students who want to help each other become professional philosophers. We organize ourselves in order to overcome the current period of administrative extra-management of science and education in Russia and in hope to improve on the situation of shortage of financial support for philosophical investigations.

We represent interests of young scholars in communication with university and faculty administration.

What we do

We help young scholars to advance in their careers by means of organizing extra-schedule research activities at the faculty. In doing that we help to organize and promote

- research seminars, e.g. seminar in philosophy of cinema "Watching Deleuze", seminar "Psychophysical problem: is it possible to explain consciousness?", seminar "Writing and reading as philosophical problem", textual seminar in medieval philosophy, seminar in phenomenology and hermeneutics et al.
- conferences for young scholars, e.g., "Theoretical and applied ethics: traditions and perspectives" (16.11.2012-17.11.2012), "The history of investigating laugh in Russia" (16.05.2013-17.05.2013)
- publish student's articles in Vita cogitans journal.

We also provide young scholars information about philosophical events all over the world, help them

apply to different Russian and international funds for financial support.

We are looking forward to possibilities to communicate with other young scholars from all over the world! We are sure that philosophy scholars can help each other overcome state borders, geographical and cultural differences in order to do philosophy all together

We will be happy to learn something about you and young scholars from your department! Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments and ideas!

Please write us at [dashachirva@gmail.com](mailto:dashachirva@gmail.com) or [smuffspbgu@gmail.com](mailto:smuffspbgu@gmail.com)

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours,

Daria Chirva,

The Head of the Young Scholars Union,

Other members: Natalia Artemenko, Herman Bokov, Pavel Davidov, Alice Zagryadskya, Gleb Karpov, Ksenia Kapelchuk, Igor Larionov, Sergey Levin, Artem Radeev, Lubov Radyuk, Maria Sekatskaya, Maria Semikolennykh, Mikhail Silian, Sergey Troitsky