EHU

European Humanities University

Call for Abstracts

19th International Academic Conference for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Europe 2017. From Printed Word to Knowledge: Local Traditions and Global Transition

May 6-7, 2017

Vilnius, Lithuania

European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania) is happy to invite undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the International Student Conference **"Europe 2017. From Printed Word to Knowledge: Local Traditions and Global Transition"** which will take place in Vilnius on **May 6–7, 2017**.

This year, EHU Student Conference aims to commemorate two important dates: the 500th anniversary of the first printed book in Belarusian (and the first printed book in East Slavic languages) published by Francysk Skaryna, and the 25th anniversary of the European Humanities University.

The aim of the conference is to present research and exchange reflections and ideas about diverse trends and local practices in the global era in a variety of communication /

technology paradigms. We offer a platform to discuss the social/human consequences of invention of (book) printing – yet examining it not only from the historical perspective, but also from that of the recent communicative turns that we have experienced or are experiencing now.

Printed word in a local/national language was instrumental in democratization and greater availability of information: advances in technology brought about progress of knowledge, the printing revolution gradually making knowledge a democratic product, rather than an elitist one. However, it is not only a matter of a language or languages, but also of the universalization of technology, knowledge and development principles, as well as of tools that can be used locally to promote, preserve and access the increasingly universal information. With the development of new digital technologies, this process has acquired a new dimension.

The conference participants are welcome to reflect on (but not limited to) the following issues:

• What future awaits the printed word?

• Are we speaking about the total or partial transition to word and knowledge in a new digital format?

• Is this transit as revolutionary as the invention of printing?

• What happens during such transitions?

• What are the practices that we lose and gain during such transits?

• How are local traditions and practices changing during global transformations, transitions?

• How does this turn affect the human dimension – and, for that matter, what does it mean "to be human" at the dawn of the new era?

• What local and global trends in the development of knowledge and education in Belarus and in the region do we observe in the age of the numerous technological, political, and economic transits?

• How does global development of technology in knowledge allow us to respond to the political-ideological and economic change in our country and in the world?

• What is the role of the University in offering a new form and content of knowledge to younger generations?

THE FOLLOWING PANELS ARE PLANNED AS PART OF THE CONFERENCE:

• Liberal Arts Education: Tradition and the 21st Century Demands

• Genealogy of User: From Handwritten Text to Printed and Digital Design

• Experience of Local Political and Economic Transformations as Global Knowledge

• Printing House and Revolution: Techno-Cultural Logic of (Social) Transformation

• Problems of Establishing the International and European Law and Order

• Integration Processes, Constitutionalism, and Human Rights

• Gender Turn in Social Sciences: Different Research Strategies and Forms of Understanding the Social

• New Technologies in Public Policy and Public Administration

• Humanities Issues in Today's Medicine

• The Digitalized: Subjectivity, Knowledge and the Social in the Digital Age

• Heritage Studies: Searching for a New Horizon of Knowledge

• Glocalization in Tourism: Global Concepts in Local Terms

• Technology and the City

• Post-Migrant Cities: Lessons from the Urban Age

The conference program will also feature a **series of pre-conference events** on May 2-5, including workshops, lectures, round table discussions, book presentations and student research project presentations, film screenings and entertainment activities offering students from different countries an opportunity for networking and learning about EHU. The conference agenda will be available in early April 2017.

The working languages of the conference: Belarusian, Russian, and English.

Submission Guidelines and Deadlines

The call is open for undergraduate and graduate students. Participation in the conference is free of charge (no registration fee), but submitted abstracts will be reviewed, and only selected applicants will be invited to participate.

Your **online application** should contain an abstract of your presentation; recommended size of the abstract is 3000-6000 characters.

If you require a visa: please submit your application no later than **February 25, 2017**. Successful applicants will be notified of acceptance by **March 8, 2017.**

If you don't require a visa: please submit your application no later than **March 25, 2017**. Successful applicants will be notified of acceptance by **April 8, 2017.**

Conference venue: Campus of the European Humanities University (5 Valakupiu Str., Vilnius, Lithuania).

Visa Support

Students requiring visa support are to include their current passport information in the application form. The passport should be valid for travelling abroad. Visas are issued **free of charge.**

Travel Expenses

The conference participants travel to Vilnius and back at their own expense. EHU does not provide any travel grants to participants. We remind you that you can either travel at your own expense or seek financial assistance from your own University or Institute.

Accommodation

Accommodation in budget hotels or hostels is provided to all the participants **free of charge** for two nights on the conference dates (**May 5–7**). EHU does not cover accommodation beyond the above dates (except for the case described under "Financial Support").

Meals

During the conference sessions, coffee breaks will be organized for all the participants. Hotels/hostels where the participants will be staying at usually serve breakfast. Other meals are covered by conference participants (at their own expense). No per diem is provided.

Financial Support

Authors of the best presentation abstracts (chosen by conference panel Chairs) are eligible for small grants covering their accommodation in Vilnius for the whole duration of the pre-conference and conference program (May 2-7). Applicants wishing to take part in the small grant competition are kindly asked to indicate it in the online application and fill in the "Motivation" field. The small grant is only aimed at covering accommodation and is not paid to participants either in cash or to bank accounts. The small grant recipient should guarantee his/her participation in the whole series of the pre-conference and conference events on the above dates.

Besides, the author of the best conference presentation will be awarded a small grant to visit the International Congress of Belarusian Studies (which will take place in Warsaw on September 15-17) and a diploma.

Collection of Conference Papers

No abstracts will be published. After the conference, a collection of conference papers will be published online featuring participants' articles. Selection of articles for publication:

- You present your research during the conference;
- Your panel Chair recommends your presentation for publication (only the best presentations will be recommended);
- You rework your presentation into an article and send it to your panel Chair before the deadline;
- Your panel Chair accepts or rejects your article, or offers suggestions on how you can improve it;
- The collection of conference papers is edited.

CONFERENCE PANELS

Liberal Arts Education: Traditions and 21st Century Demands
Ryhor Miniankou, Prof. Emeritus

The professionalization and specialization of education in the 19-20th centuries uncovered, as it seemed, the utter obsolescence of the tradition of liberal arts education in the form that had existed since Antiquity. But today, in the 21st century, we are witnessing the widespread revival of these traditions – undoubtedly, in the context of the specific features of the digital era. The narrow professionalization has been increasingly limiting the opportunities for successful self-actualization of an individual in a society. The digital world provides access to unlimited information which gets outdated very rapidly. Life-long learning via distance-learning technologies turns into one's lifestyle. In fact, it is precisely the liberal arts core curriculum that is increasingly becoming synonymous with "being well-educated" today. What is the meaning of liberal arts education today? What can be its models, structure and efficiency criteria? What can we regard as knowledge in education today, and how can it be transmitted to students? These and other related issues will be the focus of the panel. Special attention will be paid to the analysis and summing up of EHU's experience: the University which, from its day one, has been focusing on liberal arts traditions as they relate to the local contexts in conjunction with the specific features of the global world.

Technology and the City
Laboratory of Critical Urbanism: Iryna Lunevich, Siarhei Liubimau
Working language: English

The functioning of cities to a large extent depends on the functioning of urban infrastructure networks such as telecommunications, transport, energy and water supply systems. Not only do urban technologies affect well-being of urban residents, but they also shape human behavior by simplifying urban activities and disciplining city dwellers (Hård and Misa; 2008; p.8). At the same time, urban technologies are socially shaped. Design, functioning, and distribution of technological networks in the city are the outcome of public choices, local institutional arrangements, and vested interests. Thus, technologies shape and are shaped by specific urban circumstances.

Although technological systems are integral parts of the contemporary city, they are often invisible, and, therefore, they have been frequently ignored by urban theorists (Guy, Graham and Marvin; 1997; p. 196). We invite papers that reflect on technical, political, social, cultural, and economic aspects of technological development in the city. We also encourage reflections on complex relationship between urban technological systems and natural environment. Contributions may address this question by analyzing the intertwining issues of urban growth, climate change, and (sustainable) infrastructure development. Finally, we welcome papers that examine the role of technology in urban governance as well as papers that reflect on governance of urban infrastructure networks.

References:
Guy, S., Graham, S., and Marvin, S. (1997). Splintering networks: Cities and technical networks in 1990s Britain. *Urban Studies* 34 (2): 191-216.
Hård, M., & Misa, T. J. (2008). *Urban Machinery: Inside Modern European Cities*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Post-Migrant Cities: Lessons from the Urban Age
panel co-organised with [Bard College Berlin](): [Agata Lisiak](), [Siarhei Liubimau]()
Working language: English

Large-scale migration affects societies across the globe and, as such, remains highly debated on local, national, and international levels. Not a week seems to go by without some new big reports on migration patterns and numbers, new laws aimed at regulating migration, new stories of success, exploitation, and, most regrettably, deaths related to migration. Migration is assigned various meanings and status (high-skilled and low-skilled, legal and illegal, documented and undocumented, restricted and unrestricted), which are, in turn, contested in multiple ways through grassroots activism, as well as local and international NGOs. Today, migration affects everyone regardless of his or her own migration status. Many contemporary societies are post-migrant (Foroutan 2012) and super-diverse (Vertovec 2007) – these developments are particularly evident in cities. To migrants, urban centers serve as magnets and fortresses, havens and prisons, new homes and forever-foreign lands. Inquiring into the workings of migration and cities thus helps us better qualitatively understand current political, cultural, and socio-economic developments. This panel offers a floor to discuss contemporary migrations from perspective of different urban settings. We expect contributions from the fields of urban studies, migration studies, ethnography, cultural studies and human geography.

References:
Foroutan, Naika. 2015. "Unity in Diversity: Integration in a Post-Migrant Society". Focus Migration. Policy brief 28
Vertovec, Steven. 2007. "Super-diversity and its implications". Ethnic and Racial Studies 30(6), pp. 1024-1054

Glocalisation in Tourism: Global Concepts in Local Terms

Department of History, Nadzeya Charapan, Ilona Beliatskaya

In the view of last few decades, international tourism has undergone a fundamental shift and has become one of the most significant vehicles of globalisation. People have travelled to witness historic places of the cultural importance since ancient times, but what is new is the ever increasing speed, variety, intensity, new strive for local cultural experiences together with the standardised level of comfort and westernised amenities. The phenomenon of glocalisation in tourism illustrates how the global and the local are intimately intertwined through, resulting in the attractive alternative to mass tourism, offering sustainable livelihoods to small local operators, sustaining the cultural resources, transforming local culture into the cultural capital and creating authentic experiences.

We propose discussing the theoretical and practical aspects of contemporary global tourism trends and their implications into regional and local tourism practices of the Baltic and Eastern European countries. Scientific contributions may address the issues of tour operating, marketing and management; the impact of ICT, sharing economy and experience demand on the tourism industry.

Further readings:

Boswijk, A., Thijssen, T., & Peelen, E. The experience economy: A new perspective. Pearson, Education, 2007.

Cohen, E. Authenticity and commoditization in tourism. Annals of tourism research, 15(3), (1998): 371-386.

Cohen, E. A phenomenology of tourist experiences. Sociology, 13(2), 1979: 179-201.

Richards, G. Globalisation, localisation and cultural tourism. In Smith, M. and Onderwater, L. (eds) Destinations Revisited: Perspectives on developing and managing tourist areas. Arnhem: ATLAS (2007): 25-34.

Salazar, Noel B. "Tourism and glocalization "local" tour guiding." Annals of Tourism Research 32.3 (2005): 628-646.

Uriely, N. (2005). The tourist experience: Conceptual developments. Annals of Tourism research, 32(1), (2005): 199-216.

Heritage Studies: Searching for a New Horizon of Knowledge

Department of History, Stsiapan Stureika

How should we study heritage to learn something really new about it? And, most importantly, what do we need this new knowledge for, what problems is it aimed to address? So far, our "research relations" with heritage sites and monuments have been rather simple: we delved deep into their past, and we did it in order to preserve them.

In the 21st century, it is no longer enough. Connoisseurs of facts about the past are facing an increasingly tough competition with Wikipedia. Besides, realization dawns that voluminous books on history of architecture are not really helping us understand how we relate to this heritage. The same applies to folklore, notable historical figures and even Skaryna's Bible. But what are the new ways for us to unlock the potential of heritage? How can we learn the

right ways to use it, to resolve conflicts and make research-oriented managerial decisions? What type of knowledge are we lacking in order to do this?

The panel will focus on identifying new approaches and methodologies in heritage studies relevant to the three decades' worth of transformation processes in Eastern and Central Europe, as well as searching for reference points and vibrant academic islands able to generate synchronous regional and global meanings of heritage studies.

Texts for inspiration:
Albert M.-Th. Heritage studies – Paradigmatic Reflections // Understanding Heritage: Perspectives in Heritage Studies. Ed. by M.-Th. Albert, R. Bernecker, B. Rudolff. Berlin; Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2013. P. 9-17.
Ashworth G.J. From history to heritage: from heritage to identity: in search of concepts and models // Building a New Heritage: Tourism, Culture and Identity in the New Europe. Ed. by Ashworth G.J. and Larkham P.J. London: Routledge, 1994. P. 13-30.
Harrison R. Heritage: Critical Approaches. Routledge, 2013. 268 p.

The Digitalized: Subjectivity, Knowledge and the Social in the Digital Age
Laboratory for Studies of Visual Culture and Contemporary Art, Galina Orlova, Viktoryia Kanstantsiuk, Dzmitry Boichanka

More than enough has been said about the program impact of printing technologies on society and individual. But what is happening with them and us after the printing era, in the age of Web 2.0, augmented reality, GIS, open data, internet of things, digital crowds, immaterial labor, participatory economics, cyber-attacks and virtual sex? How does knowledge change under the onslaught of digital technologies, and what kind of knowledge do we produce about these digital technologies? Who are we: researchers caught up with digital frenzy? How should we speak about it and show the rapid change of the world entering the order of code, algorithm, interface, layer, surface, and digital multitudes?
EHU's Laboratory for Studies of Visual Culture and Contemporary Art invites you to discuss these and other related issues. We accept presentations from many related areas of study based on results of empirical studies and digital projects (including database and platform creation, digital mapping and visualizations, working with digital archives and corpora).

Humanities Issues in Today's Medicine
Center for Philosophical Anthropology Topos

Socio-cultural transformations and developments in science and technology result in changing principles of providing medical care and regimes of doctor-patient interaction. Humanities issues (values, ethical, existential, moral and legal) always turn out to be at the core of this change. Maintaining institutional autonomy, today's medicine is a field where scientific rationality interacts with relevant moral expectations and values produced by the respective *lifeworld*. As part of this panel, we invite you to analyze various aspects and

problems within this interaction. Particularly, the questions to be discussed are (but not limited to) the following:

1) the lessons of the "narrative turn" in today's medicine, prospects of its implementation in East European societies; 2) trajectories of personal autonomy in medicalized world; 3) illness (being-ill) as a medical diagnosis and as subjective experience; 4) ideas about health in science and in non-scientific contexts; 5) doctor-patient interaction in P4 medicine; 6) organ donation: between business and the "gift of life"; 7) interaction between medical science and society in social rehabilitation of "people with disabilities"; 8) prenatal genetic diagnostics and the issue of "life worth living"; 9) ethical issues in today's reproductive medicine; 10) social stigmatization of cancer patients. We welcome social science and humanities students interested in exploring the above issues.

Gender Turn in Social Sciences: Different Research Strategies and Forms of Understanding the Social
Center for Gender Studies

This panel examines the restructuring of social knowledge in the context of the gender turn and rethinking the experience of non-inclusion/marginality/social inequality. We welcome undergraduate and graduate students whose presentations, on the one hand, empirically problematize this experience and make it visible, while on the other hand, theorize and reflect on how the idea of (academic) knowledge should change towards greater openness and diversity.

New Technologies in Public Policy and Public Administration
Department of Social and Political Sciences, Tatsiana Chulitskaya, Uladzislau Ivanou

This panel focuses on issues pertaining to development and introduction of new technologies for effective public policy and administration, as well as public service in Central and Eastern Europe and post-Soviet states. How does new technology affect local practice and global governance?

Within this panel, you are welcome to explore different examples of successful (and less than stellar) adaptation and implementation of governance models, uncover similarities in practices of reform and practices of overcoming the consequences of economic, social and political transformation. The panel participants are also invited to formulate new challenges in order to improve the functioning of systems of administration, public service and public policy in the region.

Experience of Local Political and Economic Transformations as Global Knowledge
Department of Social and Political Sciences, Andrei Stsiapanau, Pavel Usanov

How should one interpret the processes in the world politics and economy that have to do with migration, refugees, changes in oil prices, etc.? Within this panel, we suggest discussing whether these processes generate new knowledge, and how it is being used for change in the economy, politics and society in the region.

Presenters can both cover theoretical questions within the above-mentioned field (the future of our region, new political and social divides, new paradigms of interpretation), and present their case studies (change in economic and political relations in the Eurasian Economic Union states and Western and Eastern European states). Interdisciplinary presentations are most welcome.

Printing House and Revolution: Techno-Cultural Logic of (Social) Transformations

Department of Media, [Almira Ousmanova], [Andrei Gornykh], Gleb Koran

A printing house worker surreptitiously typesetting anti-government leaflets between the three revolutions; a typist in a semi-closed Design Bureau retyping *The GULAG Archipelago* with a carbon paper to produce more copies on the rise of the dissident movement; a blogger and a friend with a smartphone inspiring digital crowds or broadcasting live from a rally in social networks in the age of the color revolutions. All of them are not only heroes from stories about resistance, but also operators of social change. They offer an opportunity for the top-notch communication tools to be used by protest groups striving to change the social structure.

How do the specific features of a communication tool influence the ideology and practice of social change? Who is being recruited for technical support of political use of the media? How does media literacy meet political action? How does communication technology influence formation of social networks, and what forms of participation in social transformation does it support? How is the contribution of technology to the change of the social structure documented, and who does it? What stories about the revolutionary role of communication tools are told by activists, contemporaries and experts?

You are welcome to search for answers to these questions within the panel organized by EHU's Department of Media. Presentations of interim results of students' empirical studies on the topics of the panel are preferred. We accept applications from students of all social sciences and humanities, and we hope for productive interdisciplinary collaboration.

Genealogy of User: from Handwritten Text to Printed and Digital Design

Department of Media, [Maksim Zhuk], [Ala Pihalskaya]

Design (in broad terms) has always been the core of the mediasphere and was the medium used to create a transmission code to deliver information to each and every addressee in the relevant form. But its history is far from independent of technical and social development. From the age of calligraphic manuscripts and Skaryna's printed books till now, different approaches and principles of design has come to be captured in graphic and interactive information systems that we use today.

Without a doubt, the static design of the traditional media differs greatly from the dynamic and interactive environment of the Internet, mobile applications and virtual reality which permeate every aspect of our lives today. The emergence of these technologies has resulted in the birth of new approaches to design, such as human centered design, participatory approach and others. In the past, the creative activities of designers were totally dependent on the technology they had at their disposal, but the emergence of the digital sphere allowed designers to be free (to a certain extent) from the tools and put users in the center of the perspective.

We invite our panel participants to explore, discuss and rethink the existing approaches to visual design, and comprehend their historical roots and their development potential. We live in the age of "information revolution" or "digital turn", when portable gadgets, augmented and virtual reality radically change the ways that we consume or produce the abundant content. We welcome our participants to reflect on how the transition from the traditional analog technologies of printing and calligraphic writing to new digital forms is changing the present and the future of design.

Processes of Integration, Constitutionalism, and Human Rights
Department of Law, [Center for Constitutionalism and Human Rights](), Jean Monnet Chair

Transformations of the national legal system–one of the key processes taking place in Eastern European societies since 1990ies–are to a great extent related to the processes of universalization of legal principles.

This process embraces all the areas of law and opens up national legal systems to international law, as well as allows us to talk about establishing both international and regional law and order.

Constitutionalism is one of the values and key legal standards ensuring the harmonization of public order in Europe, as well as enabling integration processes.

Institution-building, legal support of public policy at both the national and international levels, as well as within the regional alliances, the condition of mechanisms of human rights protection – these are currently the main focal points for the development of constitutional law. Over the last decades, human rights have ceased to be a purely internal affair of each state and have turned into a factor of international order and the EU order.

However, there is no clear distinction today between the national, international, supranational and transnational legal regimes and their institutions. The relationship between public and private law is changing, and these two are closely linked and interacting. Legal provisions have expanded to include a larger number of social areas and are closely related to social functions and subsystems, such as science, culture and economy. These trends are generating a series of legal problems requiring explanation and understanding of their nature.

The panel participants will discuss the current state of international and European constitutionalism, building of constitutional institutions, formation of special bodies responsible for international monitoring of the activities of states in human rights protection, peacemaking, prevention of violations of human rights, international conflict resolution, court advocacy institute, right to qualified legal assistance, protection of human

rights within corporations and labor relations. We will also focus on forms and instruments of regulating the field of new technologies that would allow preserving the humanism of our civilization.

Problems of Establishing the International and European Law and Order
Department of Law, Center for International Private Law

The today's processes of interaction between different legal systems and vigorous exchange between them have led to establishing of global standards in law.

The panel is a platform for discussion of trends in the development of international and European law, as well as aspects of the impact that international and European law exerts on the national law and order. It is expected that the section will bring together students majoring in various areas of law.

Particular attention will be paid to private law. Private law, regulating private and commercial transactions and widely used by the majority of people, is not among the areas of law characterized by deep harmonization and standardization. At the same time, transformations of the national legal system–one of the key processes taking place in the CIS and the EU states since 1990ies–are to a great extent related to the processes of universalization of legal principles in private law. This process allows us to speak about the formation of international and regional law and order and, at the same time, reveals the stability of the national legal systems resisting harmonization.

We will discuss trends in the development of international and European private law, as well as aspects of the current influence from international and European law on the national law and order. The panel is expected to bring together students to discuss many aspects – including historical, sociological, political, economic ones – of the development of private law in the EU and the CIS.