



IX KANT AND BAKHTIN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

«HUMAN RIGHTS, LEGAL CONSTRAINTS, REDEFINED BORDERS IN THE PANDEMIC ERA»

Murmansk, Russia, 20–21 October 2021 г.

Murmansk Arctic State University (MASU) together with Nord University (Bodø, Norway) invites you and your colleagues to take part in the Ninth International Kant/Bakhtin scientific seminar “Human rights, legal constraints, redefined borders in the pandemic era”.

AIMS OF THE SEMINAR

The tradition of the Kant/Bakhtin seminars, held since 2013, involves working with the most relevant topics related to such an interdisciplinary field as “borderology”. Borderology is a theory about how knowledge is developed and established in the border zone between different countries, cultures and climatic environments. The formation of this philosophical and scientific area occurred due to the intensive cooperation of the Nord University (Bodø, Norway) and the Murmansk Arctic State University (Russia). Later, this initiative was supported by researchers from many other countries: Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Portugal, etc. From the very beginning, the methodological basis of Borderology included the philosophical and legal ideas of I. Kant, as well as the concepts of heteroglossia, dialogism, and polyphony by M.M. Bakhtin, however, there has been a search for new ways to conceptualize the problems associated with borders (in a broad sense).

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our borderological concepts.

The new phenomenon “lockdown” has created borders we could not have imagined as little as one year ago. Not only have States closed their borders, but restrictions have been established across different regions and even within families. “Illegally” passing these borders could risk strong reactions both from the virus itself, or from the authorities. A new expression for border zones became “social distance”. Rethinking the concept of distancing and closing borders as an important and global phenomenon requires a broad, interdisciplinary approach that draws from philosophical, sociological, legal,

pedagogical, ecological and other discussions and offers a new vocabulary and an innovative conceptual framework for human identity and sociality.

The pandemic has not only challenged our understanding of borders and border zones, but has also challenged our understanding of human rights and especially our understanding of what freedom is. What is visible to us today is likely only a fraction of the tragedy wrought by the pandemic. “Lockdown” and enforced social distancing has inhibited the world’s ability to tackle poverty, to provide health care and education and has limited people’s freedom to migrate from disasters. The inclusion of critical approaches inspired by Foucault and Agamben, offers the possibility to develop a more pluralized view about the place of borders in modern political and social life.

Since we cannot directly see the infectious agents like viruses, they become a part of our everyday life through various representations produced by many actors like the State, the healthcare system, the media, etc. On the one hand, the proposed volume can explore these representations, embedded in various orders of power relations as special tools of biopolitics, and on the other hand, it can contribute to the realization that the border between “human” and “non-human” (for example, “viral”) can be understood differently: we can consider these entities on the same level, on a par with each other, without placing a humanity in a privileged position. In connection with these issues, we also propose an analysis of the phenomenon of the “medicalization of society” (using the concept of Ivan Illich), which in the modern world is coupled with the fact of the existence of communication and observation networks and fits into the general model of total control and the (re)production of borders.

At the same time as the virus forces us to “lock down” borders, people started to meet in “virtual reality” by using distance breaking media. These kinds of tools have existed for a long time, but have not previously been used to anything like the extent they have been during this pandemic. Learning, conferences, seminars, staff meetings, family meetings and new platforms of educations been going on as a “new normal”. The exchange of information has never been more extensive. This contradiction between “locking down” and “opening up” borders is what we would like to explore in our seminar discussions.

MAIN TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- ***Restrictive measures, self-isolation, remote access: new ways of understanding borders.***
- ***Human rights in the context of the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.***
- ***Pandemic and its representations in public discourse.***
- ***Medicalization of social life: contemporary biopolitics and its effects.***
- ***Human and non-human: shifting boundaries.***

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE SEMINAR

Vinogradov Andrei, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Director of the Social and Humanities Institute of the Murmansk Arctic State University (*Chairman*);

Sautkin Alexander, PhD in Philosophy, Associate Professor of the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Murmansk Arctic State University (*Head of the seminar working group*);

Nikiforova Basia, Doctor of Humanities, Associate Professor, Senior Research Fellow at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute (Vilnius, Lithuania);

Bieńkowska Małgorzata, Dr. hab., Professor, Director of the Institute of Sociology, University of Białystok (Białystok, Poland);

Methi Jan Selmer, Associate Professor of the Nord University (Bodø, Norway);

Mester Béla, PhD in Philology, PhD in Political Philosophy, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of Philosophy, Research Centre for the Humanities (Budapest, Hungary).

WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE SEMINAR



English



Русский

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SEMINAR

Please send your applications (abstract about 300 words + CV) to the email: sautkin72@mail.ru

Deadline for submitting abstracts: October 1, 2021.

Contact person: Alexander Sautkin (Head of the seminar working group), PhD in Philosophy, Associate Professor of the Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Murmansk Arctic State University (Russia).