The aim of the workshop is to discuss several questions related to the phenomenon of "the return of the religion" meaning a revival of the political and social activity of different religious agents. After a relatively long period of invisibility, the Russian Orthodox Church is again an important agent in several areas of society.

The workshop will focus on the theological dimension of the political and social agency by posing the following questions: What kind of social ethics is justifiably connected to the Russian Orthodox tradition? Is there a distinctive social ethics within the Russian theological tradition? What kind of social ethics (theory of justice, utilitarianism, and virtue ethics) may/may not be used as a social platform within the Russian theology? How does theological ethics relate to moral philosophy and social science? How does social teaching of the Russian tradition relate to other Christian traditions? Are there any components of other Christian traditions that are not acceptable from an Orthodox theological perspective?

The aim of the discussions is to start a scholarly dialogue between Russian theologians, Swedish theologians and Russian ethicists. The workshop is an academic event and does not aim at any institutionalized program. It will attempt to clarify different approaches rather than to find solutions to theological dilemmas.

PARTICIPANTS

Uppsala University

Sven-Erik Brodd, Professor of Ecclesiology
Carl-Henric Grenholm, Professor of Ethics
Margaretha Fahlgren, Professor in Literature, Vice-Rector for the domain of Humanities and Social Sciences
Claes Levinsson, Director of UCRS Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies
Elena Namli, Professor of Theological Ethics

Russian Orthodox Church

Konstantin Kostyuk, Ph.D.
Alexander Kyrlezhev, member of the Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission
Vladimir Shmaliy, Associate Professor and Vice-Rector of Russian Orthodox Church Postgraduate and Doctoral School, Secretary of the Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission
Dmitry Uzlaner, Associate Professor, Editor State, Religion, Church
Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences
Ruben Apressyan, Professor, Sector of Ethics
Margarita Korzo, Ph.D., Sector of Ethics

St. Petersburg State University
Alexander Brodsky, Professor of Philosophy, Chair of the History of Russian Philosophy, Department of Philosophy

Lomonosov Moscow State University
Andrey Prokofiev, Professor, Chair of Ethics, Faculty of Philosophy,

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME
Friday, April 5
14/5 Volkhonka, Room 420, Moscow
Institute of Philosophy

10.00-10.15 Welcome and Opening Remarks
10.15-11.00 Prof. Elena Namli, Uppsala University
Presentation: “Why do we Need Theological Ethics in Russia?”
11.00-11.30 Coffee Break
11.30-12.15 Dr. Konstantin Kostyuk, Russian Orthodox Church
Presentation: “Tradition as Focus of the Orthodox Moral Theology. On the Relation Between Orthodox Moral Theology and Contemporary Social Ethics”
12.15-13.30 Discussion
13.30-15.00 Lunch Break
15.00-15.45 Prof. Ruben Apressyan, Institute of Philosophy
Presentation: “Peculiar Image of Morality in Social Ethics”
15.45-17.00 Discussion