

**ACTIVITY
OF UNESCO CHAIR
“PHILOSOPHY IN THE DIALOGUE OF CULTURES”
Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russian Federation**

(July, 2008 – April, 2010)

The UNESCO chair “**PHILOSOPHY IN THE DIALOGUE OF CULTURES**” was established by the agreement between UNESCO and the Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences (signed on June 24, 2008).

The **main goals** of the Chair:

1. To promote the development of multicultural education in teaching philosophy.
2. To introduce to the students along with the Western philosophy as well the philosophical ideas rooted in the other civilizations so that the new generation could obtain a broader view of human cultural heritage.
3. To teach the comparative approaches in order to bring better understanding of universal and particular in human culture.
4. To educate the young people how to join in and carry on the dialogue with the representatives of the other cultures.

Teaching activities:

a) Lecture course “The Introduction to Eastern Thought” by Prof. Marietta Stepanyants and seminars by Drs. Natalya Zheleznova, Natalya Efremova and Martiya Anashina were carried on annually for all the undergraduates at the philosophy faculty and the faculty of political studies of the State Academic University for Humanities. Taking into consideration that the presentation of detailed histories of Eastern traditions in terms of names, schools, systems, and so on is practically impossible because of the time limits, the Introduction course was organized topically by introducing to the students the key notions – those concerning the origin and general structure of the universe, the place and mission of the human being within it, and the means and ways to apprehend the Truth, etc. Every topic was presented in a comparative way. At the seminars the students read and discussed the source texts (the original texts translated from Sanskrit, Chinese and Arabic into Russian).

b) Language classes in Sanskrit (Prof. Boris Zaharyin) , Persian (Dr. Natalya Potapova) and Chinese (Dr. Maria Anashina) as well as weekly special lecture courses on non-Western philosophies were introduced for graduate students. The students got tuition in preparing their course papers and diplomas.

c) Lecture courses were presented to the Ph.D. students. They got tuition leading to submission and public defense of the dissertations.

d) The members of the Chair acted as professors to different Universities in Russia: Moscow State University named after M. Lomonosov; Russian State University of Humanities; Russian Peoples’ Friendship University; Physic-Technical University, Moscow; Novgorod State University, High School of Economics, etc.

They were lecturing as well in a number of the Universities abroad: 1) Linguistic and Ontology: the Case of Vaisheshika. A course of 4 lectures in ECOLE PRATIQUE DES HAUTES ETUDES. Section des Sciences Religieuses. Sorbonne Universite, Paris, January 2008; 2) Summer Semester 2008 “Philosophy of Kashmir Shaivism” 14 lectures for the students of the

third year; 3) Summer Semester 2009: «Man in Indian Thought» 14 lectures; 4) Philosophy Department in Khalsa-college, Mumbai, February, 2009 “Indian Studies in Russia”.

e) In order to enlarge the circle of beneficiaries special Web site <http://www.synologia.ru/> has been recently established by Artem I.Kobzev, a professor of the Chair, a leading Russian philosopher-sinologist. This site will promote distant and continued education, in particular for those from the distant regions.

Research activity and publications

The fellows of the Chair were actively involved in: academic research of the history of Eastern philosophies, translations of the original texts into Russian, commentaries, studies in comparative philosophy.

The list of publications:

BOOKS:

Indian Philosophy. Encyclopedia. Ed. By Marietta Stepanyants . Moscow: “Vostochnaya literature”, 2009, 950 pp. (In Russian)

Marietta Stepanyants. *Islamic Mysticism.* Moscow: Canon, 2009, 272 pp. (In Russian)

Natalya Kanaeva. *Indian Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval.* The Guide Book for the graduate students. Moscow: IPH, 2009, 255 pp. (In Russian)

ARTICLES:

Anashina M.V. *Some Aspects of the Ecological Ethics in Chinese Buddhism* // The Journal of Oriental Studies. 2009, vol. 19, pp. 124-130.

Anashina M.V. *China: Traditional Ecological Culture and Modern Ecological Situation* // Cross-cultural Interaction in Asia. Annual of Central Asian Studies, M.: RUDN, 2009. (In Russian)

Anashina M.V. *The Role of Classical Chinese Philosophy in the Emergence of Ecological Ethics of Chinese Buddhism* // Proceedings. Russian-French Symposium on Cross - cultural Interconnections in Asia. M.: RUDN, 2009.

Kanaeva N.A. *Formal Aspects of Indian Logics* // Proceedings. Fifth Torchinov's Readings. Eastern Philosophy, Religion and Culture. St-Petersburg, 2008, PP. 166-174. (In Russian)

Karelova L.B. *Globalization: Japanese Interpretation of Socio-cultural Processes* // Voprosi filosofii, M., 2009, № 7. (In Russian)

Karelova L.B. *The Doctrine of Houon (Repaying the Debts of Gratitude) in Japanese Buddhist Thought and its Role in Labor Ethics Formation* // Journal of Oriental Studies. 2009. № 19.

Kobzev A.I. *Kan y-wei* // Big Russian Encyclopedia. Vol. 13. Moscow, 2009. pp. 9-10 (In Russian)

Kobzev A.I. *Articles : Sinology, China. Philosophy, Chinese Religion and Chinese Religion and Mythology* // Big Russian Encyclopedia. Vol. 14. M., 2009, pp. 70-75; 144-146; 172-173.

Kobzev A.I. *Specifics of Traditional Chinese Science; Numerology; Astrology; Geography; Alchemy; Erotology; Russian Sinology and many other articles* // Chinese Culture: Encyclopedia. Vol. 5: Science, Technology and Military Thought, Medicine and Education. Moscow: Vostochnaya literature pub, 2009, pp 18-27; 28-52; 96-101; 246-247; 340-344; 430-474; 653-654; 655-662.

Lysenko V.G. *Stcherbatskoi and Rosenberg about a Comparative Method in Buddhist Studies* // Herald of the Russian Christian Academy of Humanities.- St-Petersburg: Publishing House of Russian Christian Academy of Humanities, 2008. - 9(1), pp. 30-40. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. *Individual or Genus: Controversies about what constitutes the Sense of Words (based on the Mahabhashya of Patanjali)* // Vsevolod Sergeevich Sementzov and Russian Indology. Moscow: Vostochnaya literature publishing house, 2008, pp. 170-186. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. *Indian Somnology. The Main Perspectives in Analyzing Dreams. An Essay of Thematization* // Proceedings of the Russian Anthropological School. Issue 5, Moscow: Russian State University for Humanities Publishing House, 2008, pp. 24-32. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. *Shabda as sound and sense: the analysis of the Word Models in the Philosophy of Vyakarana and Mimamsa* // Donum Paulum. Studia Poetica et Orientalia. Collective Essays in Honor of Professor Pavel Grintzer. Moscow: Nauka Publishing House, 2008, pp. 450-465 (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. «*Metaphysics of recurrence*» and *samsara* // Proceedings of Russian Anthropological School. Issue 6, Moscow: Russian State University for Humanities Publishing House, 2009, pp. 54-70. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. «*Natural philosophy*» of *Body in India: Ayurveda, Samkhya and Vaisheshika* // Embodiment as Epistemological Phenomenon. Moscow: Institute of Philosophy, 2009, pp. 103-123. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. *The Value of the Other in Buddhism: problems of Ethics and Epistemology* // Proceedings of Russian Conference with Elements of School for Youth «Philosophy in the Dialogue of Cultures» 14-17 October 2009, Republic of Kalmykiya, Elista, 2009, pp. 13-18. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. *Cognition of the Other as a Form of Self-cognition* // Questions of Philosophy, Number 11, pp. 61-78. (In Russian)

Lysenko V.G. *Between Materialism and Immaterialism: Atomism in India and Greece* // Materialism and Immaterialism in India and the West. Ed. by Partha Ghose. PHISPC 12(5), Centre for Studies in Civilizations, Delhi, 2010, pp. 253-268.

Rykov S.Y. *Moist Teachings about Knowledge* // XXXIX HK OIK. M.: Institute of Oriental Studies, 2009, pp. 237-256. (In Russian)

Rykov S.Y. *The Problem of Methodological Foundations of the Chinese Classical Philosophy in Modern Sinology Studies* // History of Philosophy, № 14, Moscow: Institute of Philosophy, 2009, pp. 123-142 (In Russian)

Rykov S.Y. *Methodology of Science and Philosophy* // Encyclopedia of Chinese Culture. Vol. 5. Moscow: Institute of Far East, 2009, pp. 662-668. (In Russian)

Stepanyants M.T. *On the Possibilities of the Dialogue between Western and Islamic Civilizations* // The Journal of Oriental Studies. Tokyo. Vol. 48, No.1, 2009, pp. 195-213 (In Japanese)

Stepanyants M.T. *Cultural Essentials versus Universal Values?* // Diogenes. Beijing, №1, 2009, pp. 1-15 (In Chinese)

Stepanyants M.T. *Rethinking the History of Philosophy* // Diogenes. L.: Sage publications Ltd., Vol. 56, Issue 2-3, September 2009, pp. 138 -150

Stepanyants M.T. *Mahatma Gandhi: Apostle of Non-Violence* // Age of Globalization Journal. Moscow, № 1, 2009, pp. 155 - 162.

Stepanyants M.T. *Sufism in the Context of Modern Politics* // The Journal Of Oriental Studies. Tokyo: The Institute of Oriental Philosophy. Vol. 19, 2009, pp. 166 - 176.

Zheleznova N.A. *Philosophy of Ancient East: India, China* // Guidebook for University Students «History of Philosophy». M.: «Academic Project», 2008, pp. 6-79 (In Russian)

Zheleznova N.A. *Globalization: Indian Respond to the World Crisis* // Voprosi filosofii Journal, Moscow, 2009, № 7. (In Russian)

Zheleznova N. A. *Specifics of Meditation in Jainism* // Meditation in Culture, M. 2010. (In Russian)

TRANSLATIONS:

1) *Vinaya Vidjaya Maharadja. Naya-karnika* // Translation from Sanskrit, introduction and comments by Natalya Kanaeva // *History of Philosophy journal*, Moscow: Institute of Philosophy, vol. 14, 2009, pp. 240-261. (In Russian)

2) *Dignaga on Perception. Pratyaksha Chapter from Pramana-samuccaya-vrtti. Translated from Sanskrit with Introduction and Notes by V.G.Lysenko* // *Historico-Philosophical Annual* 2008. Nauka Publishers, 2009, p.256-281. (In Russian)

3) *Dignaga on Object as a Support of Cognition. Translation from Sanskrit into Russian of Alambana-pariksha and Vrtti of Dignaga, Introduction and Notes by V. Lysenko* // *Voprosi filosofii Journal*, № 6, 2008, pp.138-145. (In Russian)

4) *Vasubandhu on Reality of Pure Mental Representations. Translation from Sanskrit into Russian of Vimshatika-karika-vrtti of Vasubandhu, Introduction and Notes by V.G. Lysenko* // *Voprosi filosofii Journal*, № 1, 2008. C.109 - 112. (In Russian)

5) «*Nyaya-bindu*» of *Dharmakirti with the commentary of Dharmottara "Tika". Chapter 1. Perception. Introduction, Translation from Sanskrit and Notes by Victoria Lysenko* // *History of Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 14, Moscow: Institute of Philosophy, 2009, pp. 170-206. (In Russian)

International Conferences organized by the UNESCO Chair

I. In cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (Tokyo) Russia-Japan Joint Symposium "Buddhist Philosophical Tradition in Multicultural Context" hold place in Moscow (11-12 September, 2008). The selected papers presented at the Symposium were published in Japanese and English edition of the *Journal of Oriental Studies*. Tokyo, 2009, № 19 (The program of the Symposium is attached to the report).

II. Round table on "Teaching Philosophy in the Multicultural World" was organized as a part of the program "UNESCO World Philosophy Day 2009" in November 2009.

All the Chairholders of UNESCO chairs in philosophy were invited for WPD 2009. Out of 12 four Chairholders participated.

Program of the Round Table

"Teaching Philosophy in the Multicultural World"



Coordinator: Prof. Marietta T. Stepanyants, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair «Philosophy in the dialogue of cultures», Moscow

Concept: Globalization commands imminent changes in the field of education which can no longer continue to be restricted to national cultural borders. The moral imperative of our time is education responsive to the cultural diversity of mankind. Multicultural education can help sanitize the moral climate of a society by promoting tolerance, eliminating tension and hostility-feeding stereotypes through enlightenment and augmentation of knowledge, which in turn would broaden opportunities for both individual and social choices, and set new moral guidelines and behavior norms.

The aim of the round table: to discuss and seek to identify the preferable methodological approaches conducive to the development of multicultural education, in general, and philosophical education in particular.

Chair: Marietta Stepanyants

Jacques Poulain, Université de Paris 8, Titulaire de la chaire Unesco de Philosophie de la culture et des institutions

«L'université transculturelle et l'enseignement de la philosophie dans le dialogue interculturel».

Boulad-Ayoub Josiane, la Société Royale du Canada Département de philosophie, Professeur titulaire et titulaire de la Chaire Unesco d'étude des fondements philosophiques de la justice et de la société démocratique:

«Éducation philosophique et langage esthétique nécessaires au dialogue des cultures».

Serebriany Sergei, Director, E.M.Meletinsky Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow:

“The University Philosophy Education: The Western Philosophy versus non-Western Philosophies”.

Kucuradi Ioanna, Chargé(e), UNESCO Chair for philosophy Maltepe Üniversitesi; Honorary President, FISP:

“Teaching Philosophy in Multicultural Context”.

Rozin Vadim, Institute of Philosophy, RAS, Moscow:

“Cultural-historical Reconstructions and the Organization of a Collective Mind: Keys to Reforming of the Teaching of Philosophy”.

Chair: Jacques Poulain

Ferrari Jean (France), President, Committee on the Teaching Philosophy of FISP: *“Le rôle de la philosophie et de son enseignement dans le dialogue des cultures en particulier en Méditerranée”.*

Sriwarakuel Warayuth (Thailand), Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University:

“The Teaching of Philosophy and the Buddhist Way of Learning”.

Lysenko Victoria, Professor, UNESCO Chair at Institute of Philosophy, RAS, Moscow:

“The Teaching of Indian Philosophy as a Means of Overcoming Eurocentrism”.

Kirabayev Nur, Vice-rector, Russian State University of Peoples' Friendship, Moscow:

“Universalism, Justice and Inclusive Development”.

Sweet William, Department of Philosophy, St.Thomas University, Canada:

«The History of Philosophy and Forgotten Philosophies».

Stepanyants Marietta, UNESCO Chair in philosophy (Moscow):

“Teaching Philosophy and the Dialogue of Cultures”.

General Discussion

Participants: Pochta Y., Pshu Ruzana, Anikeeva E., Yurkevich A., Shestopal A., Glagolev V., Panfilova T., Biriukov N., Silantieva M., Ibragim Taufik, Kobzev A., Zheleznova N.

All the papers presented at the round table have been submitted for publication in 2010. (Photos of the Round Table are attached to the report)

International conferences with the participation of the members of the Chair:

International Conference «Buddhism and Science», January 15-17 2009, Sarnath (India).

30-th Zograph Readings in Sanct Peterbourg, 26-28 May, 2009, paper «Origins of Atomism: Linguistic Hypothesis».

Russian Conference with Elements of School for Youth «Philosophy in the Dialogue of Cultures» 14-17 October 2009, Republic of Kalmykiya, Elista, 2009.

Days of the Peterbourg Philosophy, Round Table «Cultural Worlds and Cultural Strategies of Humanity». 19 November 2009.

First Asian Philosophy Congress (5-13th of March, 2010) New Delhi.

The Russian delegation was organized by the Chair of Mahatma Gandhi. It was the largest in number among the delegations from abroad (9 participants).

Awards and recognitions:

1) In 2008 at the annual book competition of the Institute of philosophy the First prize was awarded to Dr. L.Karelova for the publication of “The Teaching of Isida Baigan about Comprehension of “Heart” and the Formation of Labor Ethics in Japan”.

2) Indian Philosophy. Encyclopedia. Ed. by Marietta Stepanyants was awarded as “The Book of the Year – 2009”.

3) Dr. Natalya Zheleznova got “Kundakunda puruskar” award in March 2010 (New Delhi) for outstanding achievements in Jain studies.

4) Chair holder Prof. Marietta Stepanyants was awarded with the medal “For Outstanding Contributions in Philosophy” (Moscow, April, 2010).

Funding

The Institute of Philosophy Russian Academy of Sciences was the main source for covering the expenses connected with the activity of the Chair.

Extra-budgetary from **Donor funding:**

The publications were partially supported through the obtaining the grants from the Russian State Foundation for Humanities; Russian State Foundation for Fundamental Research.

There were few cases when the research and publication were financially supported by the foundations in Japan, India and Iran.

Persian classes and seminars on Muslim philosophy got a financial support from the Cultural Center of Iran in Moscow. Sanskrit classes were supported by the grant from J. Nehru Cultural Center, Indian Embassy in Moscow.

The Center for Oriental Philosophies’ Studies received a grant of the President of the Russian Federation as a “leading school in sciences and humanities” for 2008-2009 which was partially used for the activity of the Chair.

Results of the activity

- The activity of the Chair has demonstrated the potentials of multicultural education in philosophy as “a moderator” in carrying on cultural dialogue.

- It has permitted to expand the horizons of world-out look of the young generation.

- It has promoted in training new brand of specialists capable to pass the acquired knowledge to the others either by teaching, or doing journalism, or being involved in political activities, etc.

- The research activity of the Chair has contributed to the construction of multicultural philosophy education on a solid basis of knowledge and comprehension of the other cultures.

- The Chair has been contributing in bringing changes in the public opinion and making it ready and capable to join cultural dialogue.