

Russian State University for the Humanities  
Centre for Typological and Semiotic Folklore Studies

19<sup>th</sup> International School in Folkloristics and Cultural Anthropology

Understanding the City: Communication with Urban Spaces, Time, and People

April 29 – May 5, 2019

Location to be announced

Circular

Contemporary city dwellers are immersed into a constant information stream and consequently enjoy a variety of choices as to how to structure their behaviour and construct their identity as well as whether to participate in different communities and get tied to particular places. This gets reflected in the practices aimed at the exploration of the urban environment and in the production and transmission of different texts.

Urban studies, having as their goal the analysis of the relationships between cities and their inhabitants, both individual people and social groups, use methods from sociology, anthropology, cultural geography, semiotics, and folkloristics. In Russia over the last several decades these multidisciplinary efforts have coalesced into a separate discipline having as its foundation the approaches developed by the Chicago school in the 1920–30s (first of all by R. Park, E. Burdgress, and L. Wirth) as well as the theories of H. Lefebvre, M. de Certeau, S. Low, M. Augé, and others.

Lectures and talks given during the 2019 School are meant to discuss various aspects of the study of cities using methods of cultural anthropology, folkloristics, and other related disciplines, focussing, although not exclusively, on the following research topics:

- Urban microcommunities, communicative nets, and the realisation of the “right to the city”
- Cultural aspects of migration processes
- “Local text” and the methods for its study
- Megapolis/small town, capital/provinces: semantic oppositions and their realisations in texts and practices
- Methods for data collection and analyses in urban studies
- Unofficial toponymy

- Ritual practices centred on elements of landscape and cultural objects in urban spaces
- Contemporary urban folklore
- Oral urban history
- Ego-history in the urban setting
- “Languages” of the urban environment

The format of the School includes

- Lectures (1 hour)
- Workshops and reading groups (1 hour)
- Screening of anthropological films related to the School’s topic with commentary and discussion (80 minutes)
- The final round-table event for young researchers where they will be able to present their ongoing work or discuss planned projects related to the Schools topic (10 minutes for each presentation)

All talks should be accompanied by Power Point slides. Handouts can be used in workshops.

**Working languages** of the School are Russian and English.

### **How to participate**

Undergraduate and postgraduate students and independent researchers under 35 without a PhD can submit an abstract for a presentation at the round table. The presentation should be based on original work.

Working researchers can propose a lecture or a workshop (consisting of 1 to 3 sessions). Creators of anthropological films can apply for a screening session.

In order to apply for any of these forms of participation, please fill the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/AmePIWUuPXcaIsr53>

Undergraduate and postgraduate students and independent researchers under 35 without a PhD can also be admitted to the School based on the results of the linguistic-problem solving contest (the problems are administered in Russian). In order to register for the contest, please fill the form here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/xFJ8uTxIgmnvBivU2> (the problems will be sent via email).

It is possible (and encouraged) to both submit an abstract for a presentation and participate in the problem-solving contest.

**Participation fee** is 1500 RUR. It covers the meals and the publication of the School’s proceedings. We are contemplating the possibility of covering the accommodation expenses for participants from outside Moscow. Participants often

find it possible to have their travel expenses covered by their home institutions. Please contact the Organising Committee for a letter of invitation.

The problem-solving contest will be held between **February 1–17, 2019**. We will start sending out problems on February 1<sup>st</sup>, so it is in your best interest to fill the form before that date.

The **deadline for submitting an abstract for a lecture, workshop, or a round-table presentation is February 20, 2019**.

The acceptance notifications will be sent out after March 11, 2019.

### **Contact information**

The updates concerning the School will be published on <http://www.ruthenia.ru/foklore/>

Please read the FAQ: [http://www.ruthenia.ru/foklore/LS\\_FAQ.docx](http://www.ruthenia.ru/foklore/LS_FAQ.docx)

In case you did not find the answers there, the coordinators of the School can be reached at [ctsfschools@gmail.com](mailto:ctsfschools@gmail.com)