

SUB ARBORES MUNDI: MYTHOPETICS THEN AND NOW

Call for papers

November 15–17, 2021

*Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinskii Dom), Russian Academy of Sciences
Makarova emb. 4, St. Petersburg, Russia*

The program committee:

Prof. *Konstantin Bogdanov* (Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinskii Dom), Russian Academy of Sciences; HSE University, St. Petersburg campus)

Prof. *Alexander Panchenko* (Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinskii Dom), Russian Academy of Sciences; European University at St. Petersburg)

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Mythopoetics is a habitual term employed by Russian philology (and humanities in general) of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Mythopoetic studies focus on reconstruction and analysis of particular world view allegedly rooted in a specific set of mythological archetypes or universal categories related to time and space (the “World Tree”, etc.). Today, these methods and approaches seem to be out of date for many researchers. On the other hand, they are not completely forgotten. Paradoxically, the conceptual basis of mythopoetic studies was never a subject for consistent scholarly reflection. Meanwhile, the very interest in mythology and mythopoesis that in many ways informed intellectual atmosphere of the 20th century appears to be a key for understanding emotional and ideological roots of various research schools and trends in global humanities.

Should we think that this special attention to myth was related to particular cultural strategies like ideologies of Romanticism or Modernism? Is the rise and popularity of mythopoetics a result of specific cognitive or ideological processes? Are there any heuristic perspectives for universalist projects and models of this kind?

We invite scholars from various disciplines and areas of expertise to discuss these and related questions at the conference dedicated to ideology and genealogy of mythopoetic studies in social sciences and humanities.

Suggested topics for discussion include (but are not limited to):

- What are emotional, ideological and cultural roots of the interest in mythology and mythopoesis in social sciences and humanities of the 20th century?
- How studies of unconscious and mythology in anthropology and philology are related to each other?
- What academic and external factors contributed to development of research concepts proceeding from universalist understanding of “mythological mentality” (“semantic paleontology”, structuralism, “myth criticism”, et al.)?
- How historical, anthropological, and philological studies of myth in the 20th century influenced new literary forms, ideologies, post-secular religious teachings and movements?
- What is the place of various theories of myth and mythopoesis in present day humanities and social sciences?

The conference will be held in a hybrid format (both in person and virtual).
The working languages of the conference will be Russian and English.
We invite paper proposals of approximately 20 minutes length.

Please submit an abstract (up to 300 words) and a short bio (up to 100 words) by August 1, 2021 to arbores.mundi@gmail.com.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by September 1, 2021.

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