ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF ESOTERICISM AND MYSTICISM

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

RUSSIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE HUMANITIES

ART DECO MUSEUM (MOSCOW)

First Call for Papers

Ninth International Conference

**MYSTIC AND ESOTERIC MOVEMENTS**

**IN THEORY AND PRACTICE:**

**Mysticism and Esotericism in Russia**

**and Other Post-Soviet Countries**

*November 9-11, 2017, Moscow*

For hundreds of years, a wide variety of mystic and esoteric movements has been active in the large region which is currently home to a plethora of countries that have over the course of their history been part of Rus, Russia, and the Soviet Union. Some of these movements were part of the wider tradition of Western esotericism, interpreted through a local lens, others had an indigenous character, and yet others were influenced by Eastern teachings. Moreover, Russia and other post-Soviet countries produced a number of charismatic personalities who became the founders of particular esoteric traditions, which deeply influenced the esoteric makeup of the region. Contemporary Russia and other post-Soviet countries are also home to a plethora of esoteric communities, schools, and influential persons. Even though this wide spectrum of mystic and esoteric movements has been under study for quite some time now, there are many blank areas remaining which await their scholar.

The conference invites scholars specializing in the study of esotericism, scholars of religion, philosophers, historians, scholars of culture, psychologists, sociologists, and all other interested scholars to discuss the following range of topics:

·        methodological and terminological problems of the scholarly study of esotericism in the region;
·        conceptual foundations of mystic and esoteric movements in the region;
·        languages of self-description used by mystic and esoteric movements in Russia and other countries in the region;
·        main periods of the history of esotericism in Russia and other post-Soviet countries;
·        mysticism and esotericism in literature and art of the region;
·        Soviet esotericism;
·        characteristic aspects of esotericism in Russia and other contemporary post-Soviet countries;
·        mystic aspects of philosophy in countries of the region;
·        the Western context of Russian esotericism in countries of the region;
·        Eastern influence on esotericism and mysticism in post-Soviet countries.

Working languages: Russian, English

Applications for the conference for participants from CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States, ex-USSR) countries are to be sent to the address of the organizing committee, esoterra.asem@gmail.com, by **01.10.2017.**  Due to possible visa concerns, we request that applications from participants outside of the CIS are sent by **01.09.2017**. We kindly request participants to provide the following information:

1. Full name:
2. Date of birth:
3. Academic degree (if applicable):
4. Home address:
5. Place of work/study (if applicable):
6. Position:
7. Telephone number:
8. E-mail:
9. Need of an official invitation to receive an entry visa to the Russian Federation (yes/no):
10. Necessary equipment for your presentation (yes (specify)/no):
11. Title of paper:
12. Abstract:

The applicant is also required to attach a photo of themselves, no more than 1Mb in size.

Applications for panels are accepted until **01.10.2017**. Panel applications need to follow the general application form outlined above. Additionally, the panel organizer needs to provide the approximate number of panel participants and a preliminary program.

A completed application does not guarantee acceptance to the conference. The organizing committee reserves the right to ask for additional information from applicants to specify unclear applications. Decisions on applications are made by the organizing committee within a week after the application deadline. Applicants will be informed of the committee’s decision by e-mail.

Remote participation in the conference is not provided for.

A conference program including information about participants and their abstracts will be published and provided to the participants before the start of the conference. It will also be available on the ASEM website.

The conference fee is differentiated according to ASEM membership and geographical location of the participant (see table below):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference participants** | **ASEM members** | **ASEM non-members** |
| Residents of CIS countries | 500 roubles | 1000 roubles |
| Residents of non-CIS countries | 10 Euros | 30 Euros |

The organizational fee will be used to cover the costs of organizing the conference as well as the publication of conference papers, which is planned after the conference takes place. The conference fee is paid at the time of registration.

The organizational fee does not include transportation, lodging, food or possible additional services (tours, museums, and so on). The organizing committee does not provide lodging for conference participants; however, it will provide information on local options at the request of an accepted participant.

Attending the conference without giving a paper is free for ASEM members, as well as the professors and students of the host university. All others must pay an organizational fee, the size of which will be announced later.

The organizing committee is open to propositions of material and informational support from interested physical and legal persons.

**Organizing committee chairs:**

Sergey V. Pakhomov, Nikolai V. Shaburov

**Organizing committee:**

Marina N. Gorodova, Evgeny L. Kuzmishin, Birgit Menzel, Stanislav A. Panin, Vladislav S. Razdyakonov, Yury F. Rodichenkov, Ludmila G. Zhukova.

Conference address:

Moscow, 6 Miusskaya Square (RSUH)

Moscow, 2/4 Luzhnetskaya Embankment, side 4, entrance 2 (Art Deco Gallery)

E-mail: esoterra.asem@gmail.com