



# The Slavic Foundation

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in cooperation with

**The Institute of Slavic Studies,  
Polish Academy of Sciences**

and

**The Faculty of Oriental Studies,  
University of Warsaw**

## Call for Papers

the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference devoted to

*Anthropological and Linguistic Images of the Soul  
in Intercultural Perspective*

*The Soul in the Axiosphere – The Axiosphere of the Soul*

**Warsaw, 19 – 21 October 2017**

Dear Colleagues,

You are warmly invited to take part in our conference, whether or not you were with us in 2015, when we held the first meeting in the series. All those interested in the issues of axiology in relation to the soul and its functions in different languages and cultures are welcome.

Planned for 19–21 October 2017, the second international interdisciplinary academic conference in the series *Anthropological and Linguistic Images of the Soul in Intercultural Perspective* is devoted to the subject of values. The previous event, *The World through the Eyes of the Soul – the Soul in the Eyes of the World* (18–20 October 2015) focused on the perception of concepts related to spirituality and non-material culture of different peoples of the world in the humanities today. The subject met with considerable interest and received a broad response in the academic community in Poland and abroad. As conference proceedings were held at the University of Warsaw Library, the event was, often spontaneously, attended by a number of its readers, particularly students, who were attracted by the subjects under discussion and took advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with the spiritual culture of the Orient, Asia and Africa in comparison with the European tradition.

The theme of the present conference *The Soul in the Axiosphere – The Axiosphere of the Soul* concerns the key cultural, social, political and also economic problems of today's world. We can witness a struggle for the souls of the younger generation being fought in the media between different ideologies and political factions; there is also business using advertising as its mighty weapon. The ensuing result involves trivialisation of values and mass production of identities, which leads to people's subjugation to the forces of global capitalism.

You are invited to join an anthropological-linguistic debate on the perception of the soul in the axiological perspective. A confrontation between different discourses (literary, ethical, aesthetic, historical, religious, sociological, philosophical) on the same objects of cognition – the values creating the axiosphere of the soul – will make it possible to reveal different processes of negotiating the form of reality within the framework of a particular social order.

The conference is intended as a transdisciplinary attempt to look for answers to a number of questions, such as: What values form, and historically formed, the source of cognition and the basis of identity development (both individual and collective)? How does cultural memory function in the process of contextual, multi-dimensional cognition of reality? In what sense is the human soul a determinant of life attitudes and what is its impact on the functioning of an individual in today's world?

Comparing different cultures in the axiological perspective will make it possible to reveal different modes of categorisation and experiencing extrasensory reality. It will also provide an opportunity to present different modes of perceiving the soul and its role in the making and functioning of value

systems, in shaping the worldview, beliefs, habits and customs, and behavioural patterns in different parts of the world: Europe, Asia, the Middle and Far East, and Africa.

**The conference welcomes papers on topics including but not limited to:**

- (1) The axiological status of the soul in terms of personality (inner life, personal choices, the functioning of will, taking care of the soul, selling the soul).
- (2) Perception of the soul in terms of existential (life and death, bodiliness and spirituality) and temporal values (transience and eternity).
- (3) The religious aspect of the soul (its relation to the sacred, the concepts of good and evil, other, cosmic reality as the source of good and light; the soul as a divine element in a human person; cardinal values from a religious perspective; the place of religion in the system of values, etc.)
- (4) The soul as the 'invisible organ' of ethical and moral evaluation (the inner voice making judgments and imposing commands; observing/rejecting the commands of the soul).
- (5) The axiological aspect of the soul in the context of beliefs and rituals (in commands and prohibitions, protective actions against the interference of evil forces, acts of atonement, etc.)
- (6) Moralising narrative schemes in texts of folklore and oral history, as well as in artistic literary texts.
- (7) Mythological foundations and symbolic representations of the soul as an axiosphere in language, culture and art (good and evil; justice, guilt, punishment, sin, atonement; justice, mercy, compassion, pity, offering; the truth, lies; etc.)
- (8) Linguistic and ethnolinguistic approaches (the soul and related values from the point of view of etymology, semantics, lexis, word-formation, onomastics, phrasematics and paremiology; in standard language and local dialects).
- (9) The axiological aspect of the soul from the perspective of popular perception and experience of the world (intuition, rationality).
- (10) The soul as a determinant of values in the process of formation of life attitudes and identity development (both individual and collective).

As can be seen, the subjects proposed for the conference revolve around valorisation of the soul from many different points of view. Contributions on related issues other than those listed above are also welcome.

As in the case of the previous conference, we invite specialists in all disciplines of modern humanities, including anthropology, cultural studies, ethnology, folk studies, history, history of art, linguistics, literary studies, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and others.

The interdisciplinary nature of the event will provide an opportunity to reach beyond the circle of specialists in a particular area and to open up to a broader perspective. This will be possible as a result of the confrontation of different points of view and research methodologies used in particular disciplines of humanities by scholars from different cultures and societies.

Conference organisers:

Director of the Institute of Slavic Studies,  
Polish Academy of Sciences

Prof. dr hab. Anna Zielińska

President of the Slavic Foundation

Dr Małgorzata Kasner

Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies,  
University of Warsaw

Prof. dr hab. Piotr Taracha

Organising Committee:

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Institute of Slavic Studies,  
Polish Academy of Sciences

Dr hab. prof. UW Joanna Jurewicz,  
University of Warsaw

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Scientific Honorable Committee:

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Prof. Olga Belova (Institut Slavajnovedenija, RAN, Moskva)

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Prof. Izabella Bukraba-Rylska (Instytut socjologii PAN, Warszawa)

Prof. Renata Grzegorzczkowska (Uniwersytet Warszawski)

Prof. Anna Engelking (Instytut Slawistyki PAN, Warszawa)

Prof. Galina Kabakova (Université Paris Sorbonne)

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Prof. Alla Kożynowa (Belorusskij Gosudarstvennyj Universitet, Minsk)

Prof. Andrej Moroz (Russijskij Gosudarstvennyj Universitet, Moskva)

Prof. Jadwiga Puzynina (Uniwersytet Warszawski)

Prof. Maria Skab (Czerniowiecki Uniwersytet Narodowy)

Prof. dr hab. Piotr Taracha (Uniwersytet Warszawski)

Prof. Svetlana M. Tolstaja (Instytut Slavjanovedenija,RAN, Moskva)

Prof. James Underhill (Universytet Rouen, Francja)

Prof. Irena Vankova (Univerzita Karlova, Praha)

Prof. Anna Zielinska (Instytut Slawistyki PAN)

Conference fee:

450 PLN (100 EUR) for faculty

150 PLN (35 EUR) for Professors Emeritae and Emeriti, and students (including doctoral students)

The fee will cover organizing costs and coffee breaks. It will not, regrettably, cover accommodation or travel, but we do offer help with booking your hotel (more details in forthcoming correspondence).

The organizers will make a selection of the submitted proposals – you will be informed of the results of the process by the end of June 2017. The talks will be **20 min long**.

**Please use the attached form to submit paper proposals and send them to [konferencja.dusza@gmail.com](mailto:konferencja.dusza@gmail.com) by 31 May 2017.**

Submitted proposals will be subject to selection by the organising committee.

As a cultural event, we will make visits to Warsaw cathedral tombs.

Information about the conference programme and venue will be provided at a later date.

On behalf of the organisers,

Dr hab. IS PAN Ewa Masłowska,

Prof. Institute of Slavic Studies,  
Polish Academy of Sciences