INFORMATION LETTER

Dear colleagues!

We invite you to participate in **Russian conference (with international participation)**
The conference is held with the participation of the Russian Association of Political Science and the Russian Society of Political Scientists

«The political in the context of digital transformation: philosophy, science, technology» (Russia, Saint Petersburg, September 24-25, 2021)

The introduction of digital technologies in politics is accompanied by debates about the benefits, challenges and risks of the political. Contemporary digital politics requires adaptability, mobility, flexibility, sensitivity and speed of response to emerging issues. All this is interrogated by transformations in the sphere of political events. It incorporates data-driven requirements, including principles of collaboration, transparency and openness, innovation and co-production. At the same time, digital technologies exacerbated the problem of control from above (surveillance), giving rise to the anxiety of the formation of the Big Brother, Panopticon, or the All-Seeing Eye. The danger to freedom and privacy caused a control response from below (sousveillance), creating a threat to integration and coordination of efforts in public space. Discussions on freedom, domination and intervention are accompanied by evidence of a potential-free strategy for the interaction of a digital governance and digital citizens based on cooperation, transparency and honesty, which are based on digital technology algorithms. Many are convinced that algorithmic politics will remove the dangers of inefficiency and mistrust by putting a share of responsibility on impersonal procedures.

The content of the main trends in the development of contemporary political science in connection with digital phenomena affecting its thematic, methodological and theoretical problems, as well as its connection with political practice. The logic of the search for new political thinking consists in a sequential transition from solving the problems of the digital in the field of interdisciplinary methodological synthesis to considering the unity of political methodology and ontology, and then to ontologizing political studies expressed in two ontological turns. Interdisciplinary synthesis involves overcoming the boundaries between qualitative and quantitative research, as well as the natural and social sciences. The unity of political methodology and ontology was based on the recognition of the primacy of substantive political research. The first ontological turn concerned criticism of the post-political review of politics and attempts to substantiate political theory and philosophy. In the thematic plan, attention was paid to disclosing the content of the political and substantiating the relationship between philosophy and politics. The second ontological turn led to the politicization of ontology and the ontologization of politics by criticizing metaphysics, rationalism, and human subjectivity. This turn is expressed in the new political realism, which includes actor-network theory and object-oriented ontology.

Under these conditions, the question arises of how the political is transformed under a digitalization of society and politics. Can we just talk about its adaptation to the changing requirements of digitalization? Or do we observe a kind of the digital political that radically changes the principles, methods, attitudes and norms of political life? What is this politics of the digital and how does the digital political shape its ontology? What role do the processes of learning to act and interact (both within the administrative bodies and between them and the citizens) on the basis of cooperation, reciprocity and mutual responsibility play in this process of forming / adapting the political? Or are there new divisions, gaps and antagonism/agonism in contemporary politics of digitalization?

We invite conceptualists, case researchers and comparativists to participate. We are interested both in theoretical reports and in empirical studies of the transformation of the political in the post-truth world. We are particularly interested in reports that show the difference between the introduction of digital politics in democratic and authoritarian regimes.

The work of the Conference is planned in the following directions:

1. **Political Ontology of Digitalization.**
   - Methodological Potential of Actor-Network Theory in The Context of Research on Digitalization of Governance.
   - Techno-Political, Techno-Social, Techno-Cognitive Components in Digital Public Administration.
   - The Fourth Industrial Revolution in The Context of Politics and Governance.
   - Controllability Of Socio-Technical Systems in The Context of Modern Challenges.

2. Digital Policy and Digital Public Administration.

- Digital Transformation of Governance (National, Regional and Local Levels).
- Social And Political Effects of Digitalization Policy.
- Governance Through Digital Platforms
- Digital Sovereignty: Necessity or Potential Threat?
- Algorithmization of Governance: Prospects and Risks.

3. Political Theory Today: Main Directions of Development.
- Political Ontology and Epistemology: Contemporary Debates
- Subjectless Politics and Non-Human Actors. New Horizons of Political Philosophy.
- Civil Science and Expert Knowledge Issues.

4. Political ideologies in the modern world.
- Political ideologies in the modern world.
- After Trump. Is the "populist wave" over?
- Political and ideological effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

5. Political process in modern Russia: global challenges and national features.
- Russian project of the configuration of political institutions.
- Projects and forecasts of political transformations for Russia in 2021.
- Political education in Russia and the modern world.

Location: St. Petersburg, st. Smolny, 1/3, entrance 7.

Applications for the conference are accepted on the website https://events.spbu.ru/events/anons/politics/reg.html. For the application, annotations of 150 - 200 words are accepted. **The application deadline is August 1, 2021.**

Contact issues:

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Following the results of the conference, the organizing committee plans to publish a collection of the articles with indexing in the RSCI. The selection of articles will be carried out on the basis of abstracts and presentations at the conference.

The final formation of the Conference program will be based on the applications of the participants. An organization fee is charged. The registration fee is planned to be used to publish a digest of articles and to cover organizational costs (portfolio of a full-time participant, coffee breaks, etc.). The amount of the contribution is 2000 rubles (full-time participation), 1000 rubles - postgraduate students and undergraduate students. The form of payment of the fee will be announced additionally.

The form of participation in the conference is mixed:
• Full-time;
• Remote (using information and communication technologies).

Conference languages: Russian and English.

Information for nonresident conference participants

Nonresident conference participants are invited at the expense of sending organizations and book rooms in the hotel on their own. The organizing committee can provide information support.

Organizing committee

The organizing committee reserves the right to reject materials that do not correspond to the problems of the conference and the requirements for the formatting of articles.