

## Eschatological Scenarios of Russian Modernity:

### From Belle Epoque to Fin de Siècle

On the turn of the twentieth century, the European society was obsessed with hopes and fears. While some were waiting for the beginning of radically new blissful era in the history of the humanity, others expected the end of the world to come soon. Eschatological scenarios varied from millenarian to catastrophic. Explicit and implicit references to eschatology were typical both for religious and secular ideologies. In the Modern era, when the world was rapidly changing, eschatology manifested itself in new forms and contexts. Although eschatological sensitivity was common across the entire European continent, it varied from region to region. We will explore how the Russian case was special against the European background.

The Modern era was a time of an active development of a “new religiosity” – Occultism, Theosophy, Anthroposophy, etc. The adepts of these movements were awaiting the transfiguration of the whole world, and these expectations had a strong impact on these communities. The époque was also characterized by the increase of interest in non-European traditions, which influenced the eschatological discourse and the interpretations of traditional eschatological texts. At the same time, traditional apocalypticism served as an instrument of interpretation of the current events.

Eschatological themes and images attracted thinkers, artists, composers, writers and other people beyond religious institutions and movements.

Below are some of the issues we will discuss:

- What is the significance of eschatology for the culture of Russian Modernity?
- How current social-political events were conceptualized in the light of eschatological thinking?
- How and why eschatological sentiments transformed?
- How classic eschatological texts of religious traditions were re-interpreted?
- How eschatology manifested itself in secular contexts?
- How did eschatology influence the political ideas of that time?
- In what forms were eschatological ideas manifested in the Russian arts, literature, philosophy, and
- in popular culture?

Many of the ideas that emerged during the fin de siècle era, were deeply rooted in the “long nineteenth century”. For that reason, the papers concerning early and –mid-nineteenth century will be accepted for consideration.

The conference will be held at the Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow) on 25 and 26 November 2021.

Online attendance will be possible. Deadline for submission of proposals: 31 September 2021. Paper proposals must include an abstract of 150-200 words. Organizing Committee reserves the right to reject proposals found to be irrelevant to the subject of the conference. Notification of acceptance will be made by the end of October 2021.

Please send your proposal to the following address: **eschatologyconference2021@gmail.com**

We are looking forward for your submissions!

Co-organized by: Institute of Scientific Information (Russian Academy of Sciences) and Center for the Study of Religion, Russian State University of the Humanities

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