

REGISTRATION

Numbers are limited and early registration is strongly advised. Registration will become effective when the registration form and the full conference fee have been received and acknowledged by the registration officer. The conference fee covers registration, accommodation, meals, participation in all conference activities, excursion, conference dinner and entitles the participant to receive summaries of all conference papers.

Early conference fee (before 1 June 2008)	single room €395 double room €305
Late conference fee (after 1 June 2008)	single room €435 double room €345

A limited number of scholarships will be provided – mainly for speakers from Eastern European countries. Should you cancel your registration before 1 August, €30 will be deducted and the remainder of your conference fee will be refunded. No refund is possible after 1 August. Payment of registration fees may be made by bank transfer or by check in US\$, EURO or UK pounds. *Please write to the registration officer for advice.*

All registration forms must be sent to the registration officer:

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St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute

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ST. ANDREW'S BIBLICAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Ostkirchliches Institut, Regensburg

Invitation and Call for Papers

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

RUSSIAN SOPHIOLOGY IN EUROPEAN CULTURE

1-5 October 2008

Moscow

In 2003-2007, St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute (Moscow) in cooperation with Ostkirchliches Institut (Regensburg) and with the support of the Catholic Committee for Cultural Collaboration (Rome) has organized a number of conferences on the problem of unity of European culture as this was reflected in works of the Russian Silver Age philosophers (Vladimir Soloviev, Sergey Bulgakov, Pavel Florensky, Nikolai Berdiaev and Semion Frank). Our next conference is dedicated to sophiology, the issue central to their thought.

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Russian sophiology, one of the central themes of the Russian religious-philosophical renaissance, is a development and interpretation of the most important universals of the European Christian culture. It is through sophiological categories that the Russian religious-philosophical thinkers (Vladimir Soloviov, Sergey Bulgakov, Pavel Florensky, Lev Karsavin etc.) tried to approach the problem of Christian unity. These categories, on the one hand, connected the Russian thought to the Western rationalistic tradition, but at the same time served as a means of overcoming its “abstract principles”. Russian religious philosophers saw in sophiology a way out of a European cultural crisis which Russia was also facing. Being a field of ideological fight, sophiology of the Russian Silver Age acted at the same time as a stimulus to reexamine the Orthodox tradition and to deeper understand it.

Sophiological ideas have not lost their creative potential today and are being rethought in a new historical context. In face of serious challenges of the 21st century, cultural and religious cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe is becoming extremely important. Sophiology provides a very fruitful intellectual soil for this, so that creative development of sophiological ideas can become a starting point for new unifying tendencies.

The Conference will take place in Moscow from Wednesday, 1 October to Sunday, 5 October 2008. Leading theologians, philosophers, and other specialists who made important contributions into scholarship of Russian and Western theology and religious philosophy are invited. In the course of the Conference, the following questions will be addressed.

- Contemporary interchristian and interreligious dialogues in the light of the idea of Pan-Unity (“Vseedinstvo”)
- Biblical, gnostic and patristic sources of Russian sophiology
- Western mystical tradition and its influence on Russian sophiology
- Sophiology and trinitarian theology
- Sophiological ideas and modern philosophy

- The image of Sophia in Western and Eastern literature, art and music.

PAPERS AND PUBLICATION

Those who wish to present a paper should send a summary (800 words at most) by e-mail to St. Andrew’s by 15 July 2008. The Organizing Committee selects papers for the Conference and sends invitations to the speakers. The full text of all the papers selected will have to be submitted by 15 August 2008. However, it will be possible to participate without a paper (some priests, teachers, and students are expected to be present). The working languages of the conference will be Russian and English.

Upon arrival at the conference every participant will receive summaries of all the papers presented and the conference programme. Plenary and sectional papers are scheduled for 30 minutes each. Some papers will be published in St. Andrew’s quarterly *Pages: Theology, Culture, Education* and we will publish a collection of papers in a separate volume. Summaries and papers should be sent to:

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ORGANIZATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will assemble on 1 October for a reception and opening ceremony in the evening. Participants will depart after breakfast on 5 October. The price of a single room and full board will be approximately €80 per day.

The conference will be held in Zvenigorod, an ancient town near Moscow. Hotel Zvenigorod is located in a picturesque place on the bank of the Moskva river. Not far from the hotel are situated several famous ancient monasteries and churches. An excursion to some of them will be organised for the conference participants.