

CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY
IN NOVOSIBIRSK SCIENTIFIC CENTER
THE PAGES OF HISTORY

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The cover design uses a fragment of the fresco *The Marriage of Zeus and Hera* from the House of the Tragic Poet, Pompeii

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Introduction

Novosibirsk school of Classics is the most eastern Russian center for the study of the intellectual heritage of the Ancient civilization. At the same time, classical scholars of the Novosibirsk scientific center is well known beyond its borders. The interest of Novosibirsk philosophers covers many areas of classical problems, mainly focusing on their philosophical aspects as well as on ancient history, culture and science. Among the topics and directions of research are ancient mythopoetic tradition, sophistic movement, Socrates, Plato and the Academy, Platonism in general, Aristotle and the Peripatetic tradition, Hellenistic philosophy, and Late Antiquity. Among the interests characteristic of the Novosibirsk community of classical scholars is the analytical approach to the study of Antiquity, as well as the exceptional attention to such rare for the Russian science topics as ancient music, navigation and medicine.

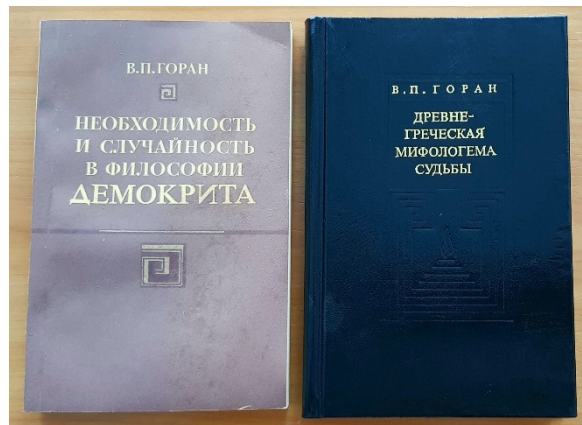
On the photo: the building of the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the panorama of Akademgorodok





The beginning of historical-philosophical research in Novosibirsk Akademgorodok is firmly connected with the name of Vasily Pavlovich Goran. Having graduated from the Leningrad University and completed his postgraduate course under professor of the Moscow State University A. N. Chanyshv and defended his thesis on causality in Democritus, since 1981 V. P. Goran begins his work as a researcher at the United Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy of the Siberian Branch of RAS in Novosibirsk Akademgorodok.

On the photo: V. P. Garan (left); some of his works (right)



The first half of the 1990s is characterized by the widespread rise of the humanities in Russia. Thanks to the opening of the Faculty of Philosophy at Novosibirsk State University, young people are actively involved in historical and philosophical research. It was at this time that V. P. Goran was joined by E. V. Orlov, E. N. Kamelchuk, M. N. Wolf, I. V. Berestov and P. A. Butakov, who will become the first representatives of the Novosibirsk classical studies, and later teachers of the Faculty of Philosophy.



On the photo: graduating undergraduate students at IPP NSU (2017)
B. P. Goran (bottom left) and M. N. Wolf (top center)

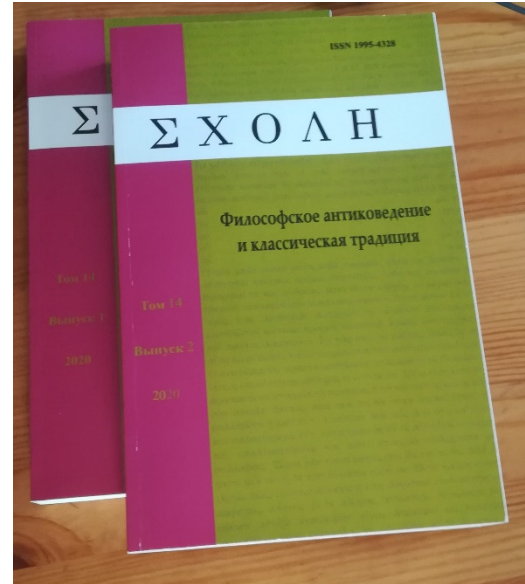
Centre for Ancient Philosophy and the Classical Tradition

The young community of classical philosophers of Novosibirsk Akademgorodok was formed in 2006 as the “Center for Ancient Philosophy and the Classical Tradition” which allowed to unite the efforts of classical scholars working in the adjacent fields such as philology, history, archeology, law and culturology who in their studies focus on the philosophical problems. On the Center site (classics.nsu.ru) there are personal pages of many scientists from Novosibirsk who research subjects of antiquity and also the information about the guests and friends from other cities and countries who accepted the invitation to join the Center. For students there are textbooks and manuals prepared by members of the Center. Visitors of the Center's website will also find there various reference materials, publications of the Center's members, announcements of current conferences and other relevant information about its work.



The Journal ΣΧΟΛΗ

In March 2007, Eugene Afonasin had founded the international journal “ΣΧΟΛΗ. Ancient Philosophy and the Classical Tradition”. The journal quickly gained international recognition, taking its rightful place among the specialized publications in the field that have appeared in Russia and abroad in recent years. Original studies on antiquities, written in Russian, English, Modern Greek, German or French, are organically supplemented by new translations of Greek and Roman authors, reviews, analytical bibliography and, last but not least, by lectures on various relevant subjects given by specialists in particular fields, prepared especially for the journal.



ΣΧΟΛΗ Supplements

The book series “ΣΧΟΛΗ Supplements” (schol.e.ru) was also initiated in 2020. The series includes an anthology containing a selection of Russian translations of some key foreign works on the Pythagorean tradition, a study of the Strasbourg papyrus of Empedocles, a commented translation of Parmenides' Poem, and an annotated bibliography of works by classical scholars at the Novosibirsk Research Center, etc. Future editions of the series are expected to include both new translations of ancient and modern authors, and original studies of philosophical antiquities.



“Classical Studies” Book Series

A series of studies focuses on various aspects of ancient philosophy and science. The book on ancient medicine includes both an outline of its history and a number of translations of ancient authors, such as Galen and Porphyry. The collection “Ancient Cosmos” is interesting first of all because it includes translations of ancient astronomy textbooks by Geminus, Cleobulus and Theon. The history of ancient harmonics is revealed in the collective work through such texts as Euclid's “Sectio canonis”, Nicomachus' "Manual of Harmonics", and the teachings of Aristoxenus and Theophrastus on rhythm, musical culture and acoustics. New collections of fragments of ancient Greek sophists such as Protagoras, Gorgias, Prodicus, and Antiphon, as well as a collection of testimonies on the writings of the Platonist Heraclides of Pontus, have also been prepared.



Classical Writers in Translation

The works of such ancient writers as Aristotle, Theophrastus, Dicaearchus, Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans, the Platonists Porphyry, Iamblichus and Damascus, the Christian writers Clement of Alexandria, Hippolytus, Irenaeus, and others have been commented and translated. There are also a number of works about the Academy itself as a public and research institute, as well as archaeological research connected with the building of the Academy and other philosophical houses in Athens.

Translations have been made of books on the history of Platonism by well-known contemporary authors such as John Dillon (Dublin) and John Rist (Cambridge).





Publications

Owing to the work of Eugene Orlov, the most complex works of Aristotle – his *Metaphysics* and *First and Second Analytics*, which have rarely been studied in Russian history of philosophy, are now in the focus of interest of Russian classical scholars.



Early Greek philosophy and Platonism are the topics in which Novosibirsk classical school was predominantly interested since the first years of its existence.



Another area of interest of Novosibirsk classicists is the works that discuss general methodological approaches to writing historical and philosophical research, specific methods of the humanities (reconstruction, interpretation, understanding), as well as the application of methods of exact sciences and logic to historical and philosophical research.



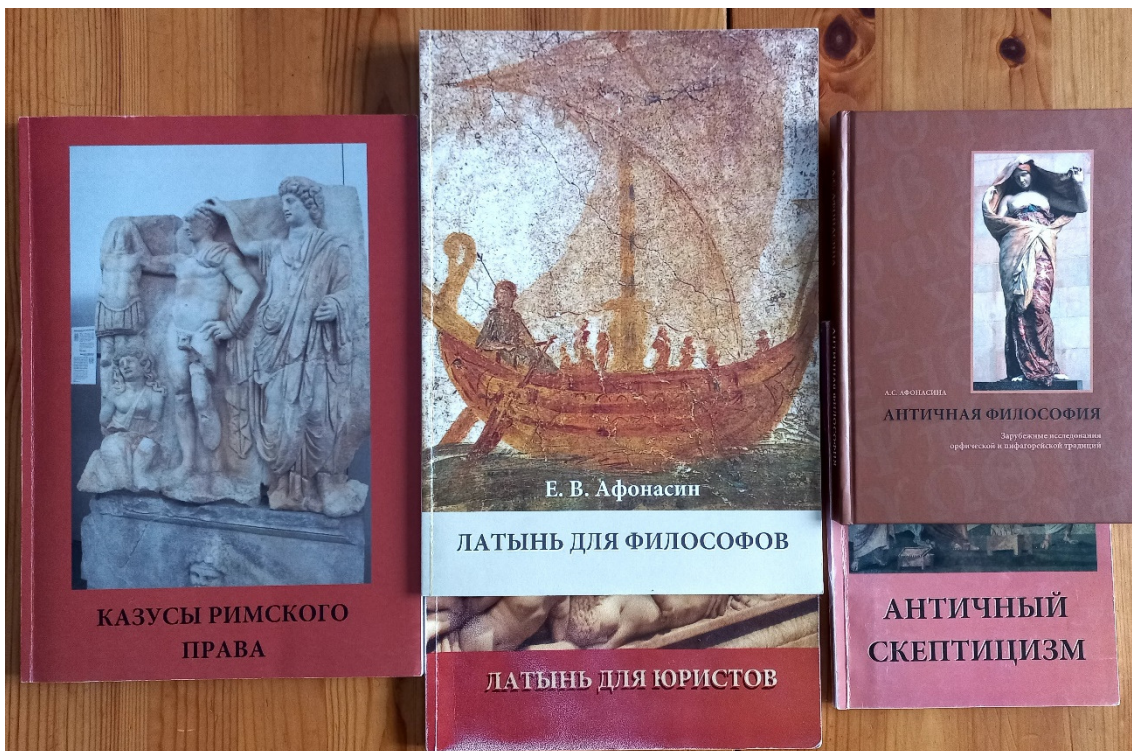
Some studies by Novosibirsk scientists have been translated into foreign languages:
 V. P. Goran's book was translated into Japanese, M. N. Volf's - into Persian, and
 E. V. Afonasin's studies - into Modern Greek.



Textbooks and Manuals

Many representatives of Novosibirsk Classical studies are active educators. They teach at universities in Novosibirsk and other cities (such as Tomsk, Odessa, etc.), give lectures on the history of philosophy, history and philosophy of science, classics and other related disciplines. This activity provides an opportunity to popularize classical culture and philosophy, to involve undergraduate and graduate students in research on classical studies and to develop and strengthen the school of History and Philosophy. The results of this work are the published textbooks and manuals on classical tradition (from antiquity to medieval Arab philosophy), Greek and Latin, Roman law, and some other topics.





Reading Classics



Among the educational projects that go beyond the standard educational curriculum are regular optional seminars for students: a class on Aristotle's *Metaphysics* (supervisors E. V. Orlov and A. A. Sanzhenakov), reading Plato (supervisors E. V. Afonasin and A. S. Afonasina), and reading and discussing Parmenides' poem (supervisor M. N. Volf).



Left: seminars program;
Right: E. Orlov and A. Sanzhenakov
read Aristotle

M. A. Program “Classics and Philosophy”

The Interdisciplinary International Master's Program in Classics and Philosophy (Institute of Philosophy and Law, Novosibirsk University), organized by the Siberian classicists, allows students of different humanities departments of NSU as well as foreign students to study classical languages, ancient philosophy and various aspects of ancient culture.





In the photo (here and on the previous page): Siberian classicists with students and colleagues in Ancient Tiryns

Philosophical Schools



The Center for Ancient Philosophy and Classical Tradition at the Novosibirsk State University has become an important integration platform for Russian classical scholars, hosting a number of interdisciplinary seminars and conferences important for the development of Russian studies of Antiquity. Two interdisciplinary seminars “Teaching Classics” (2007-2010) and “Τέχνη: Theoretical Foundations of Arts, Sciences and Technology in the Greco-Roman World” (2010-2013) were held with the support of the Open Society Institute. In addition to seminars the Center organizes a number of international and

all-Russian conferences, schools and round tables, during the years of the Center's work many leading Russian and Western scientists visited Novosibirsk and established strong relationships with other Russian and Western centers studying the ancient tradition.

On the photo: Prof. John Dillon (Trinity College, Dublin), above, and Teun Tieleman (Utrecht), below, give lectures in Novosibirsk





Left: participants of the international school “Teaching Classics” (Novosibirsk, 2007). Right: renowned classical scholars Prof. John Rist (Cambridge), above, and Leonid Zhmud (St. Petersburg), below, lecturing at NSU

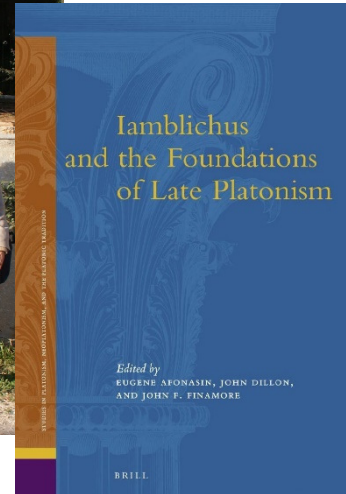
International Relations



Prof. Luc Brisson (Paris, left) and Prof. Lilian Karali (Greece, right), and Levan Gigineishvili (Tbilisi), below, discuss philosophical issues at seminars



Neoplatonic Conference in Athens



Right: the participants of the international conference on ancient philosophy organized by Novosibirsk classicists together with the Irish Institute in Athens (2009) visit the “Proclus House” on Dionysius Areopagite Street in Athens. Left: the publication of the seminar's proceedings in a reputable Dutch publishing house

Research Trips



Left: Novosibirsk classicists with foreign colleagues during their research visit to the “House of Damascus” in Athens (2009). Left: Prof. Dominic O’Meara (Fribourg). Above: John Dillon (Dublin) speaking at the Athens seminar



Analytical History of Ancient Philosophy

From 2012 to 2015 in Novosibirsk Akademgorodok at the Lutheran Theological Seminary a research seminar “Analytical History of Ancient Philosophy” was held where the possibilities and perspectives of the analytical approach for historical-philosophical and classical studies were first discussed. Among the permanent participants of the seminar were M. N. Volf, I. V. Berestov, P. A. Butakov, A. M. Streltsov, A. A. Sanzhenakov, and S. V. Berdaus.



On the photo: the presentation of the book by M.N. Volf “Sophistics. Gorgias of Leontius in Modern Interpretations” (2014)



P. A. Butakov's paper on analytic theology at the seminar
on “Analytic History of Philosophy”

Aristotle Conference

The International School “Peripatetic Tradition: Aristotelian Ideas in Philosophy, Science, and Literature” (2017) was held in Novosibirsk with the support of the Russian Science Foundation (project



supervisor
E. V. Afonasin)
among the events
marking the 2400th
anniversary of Aris-
totle's birth.



Left: School participants in front
of the Institute of Philosophy and Law;
Right: Professor Fran O'Rourke (Dublin),
giving a lecture at NSU



Siberian classicists among the participants of the World Congress “Aristotle 2400 Years”
(Thessaloniki, Greece, 2016). Plenary session at Aristotle's birthplace
in the ancient theater of Stagira

International Conferences

Siberian classicists speak at representative professional meetings in Russia and abroad. In particular, they regularly participate in conferences organized by the Olympic Center for Philosophy and Culture, the International Association for Pre-Socratic Studies (IAPS), the Interna-



tional Platonic Society (including its Russian branch), and the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies.

Analytic Theology

In 2008 an international project, Analytic Theology, was launched to unite traditional theology with modern analytic philosophy. Today analytical theology has already established itself as an independent academic discipline. One of the many strands of analytical theology is the study of ancient and medieval theological concepts and discussions with the aim of discovering their implicit logical structure and modes of argumentation.



On the photo: Pavel Butakov giving a talk at the University of Helsinki (2020)

Our faculty contributes to the development of this field and also takes part in international schools and conferences on analytical theology, among them: “Theological Realism and Anti-Realism” (2013, Mainz), “Philosophy of Jewish Sacred Texts” (2015, Jerusalem), “Personalistic and Non-Personalistic Concepts of God” (2018, Innsbruck), “The Revival of Trinitarian Issues in the Analytic Tradition” (2018, Louvain-la-Neuve), “Aristotelian and Scholastic Ideas in Contemporary Analytic Philosophy” (2019, Voronezh), and “Soteriology” (2020, Helsinki).



On the photo: discussion during a conference on Jewish philosophy (2015)

Popular Talks

How to change your way of life to become happy and achieve mental equilibrium? Young scientists from Novosibirsk hold open lectures for the general public on Hellenistic philosophy as a way of life.



Alexander Sanzhenakov speaks about the Stoics

БУДЬ ЛУЧШЕ, ЧЕМ ТЫ ЕСТЬ!
практические советы античных философов

ОТКРЫТЫЙ ЛЕКТОРИЙ НАУЧНЫХ
СОТРУДНИКОВ ИНСТИТУТА
ФИЛОСОФИИ И ПРАВА СО РАИ
ОБ ЭКЗИСТИЕНЦИАЛЬНЫХ РЕШЕНИЯХ
СЧАСТЬЯ И СПОСОБАХ ЕГО
ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ

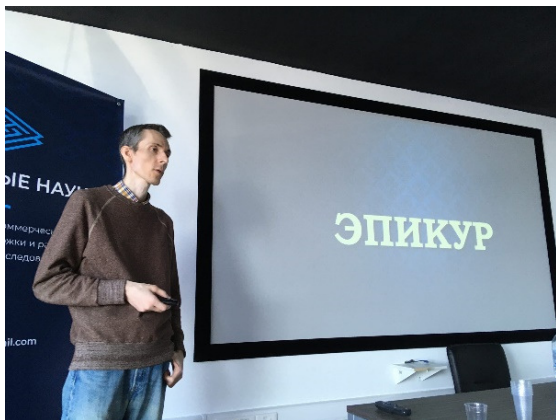
«Мне не важно, кто ты, и зачем ты пришел... Мне важно, кто ты есть. Кто ты есть, кто ты есть, кто ты есть...»
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«Мне не важно, кто ты, и зачем ты пришел... Мне важно, кто ты есть. Кто ты есть, кто ты есть, кто ты есть...»

КОГДА:
22 апреля с 12:00 до 14:00

ГДЕ:
Телемари, ул. Нахичевань, 21,
4-й этаж, 22-й этаж

QR code

Спонсор: Институт философии и права СО РАН



Vladimir Brovkin discusses the philosophy of Epicurus (left);
Denis Maslov speaks about Pyrrhonism and Sextus Empiricus (right)



Anna Afonasina speaks about the visual aspects of ancient culture.
A lecture "Antiquity in Color" in "ART PUB" (Novosibirsk)

References



The Journal ΣΧΟΛΗ



The Centre for Ancient Philosophy
and the Classical Tradition (NSU)



Institute of Philosophy and Law (NSU)



Research Library
Institute of Philosophy and Law SB RAS

**ФИЛОСОФСКОЕ АНТИКОВЕДЕНИЕ
в НОВОСИБИРСКОМ НАУЧНОМ ЦЕНТРЕ
СТРАНИЦЫ ИСТОРИИ**

(на английском языке)

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