

II International Conference

Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the Digital Age

9-12 June 2019

Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation

Background

Rapid and persistent changes in the information and communication field have become one of the most vivid and comprehensive features of the modern era. These changes are fuelled by the rampant penetration of information and communication technologies into all spheres of our life. The development of artificial intelligence and machine learning, big data analytics and cloud computing, embedded systems and devices, the Internet of things, augmented and virtual reality, blockchain, etc. fosters the shift towards a new technological paradigm. The approaching future brings both positive expectations of scientific and technological progress and distinctly perceived threats, which are described and analysed by various communities – from media specialists to academics and politicians.

The rate of changes is so high that the society does not have time to interpret and thoroughly understand them, nor to respond progressively. Most studies focus on the receding reality; those trying to describe and analyse the current state-of-the-art and to forecast possible development lines and their consequences follow out-of-date models and approaches. At the same time, experts and the general public have reached a relative consensus on socio-cultural challenges coming into particular prominence, in particular:

- Oversupply of information, resulting in its devaluation and loss of trust to professional media;
- Pervasive communications accompanied by ever more sophisticated communicative technologies;
- People gradually getting excluded from generating meanings and values and turning into functional supplements to communication flows;
- Traditional cultural regulators of social relations and processes being displaced by automated social algorithms;
- Blurring the borders between the real and the digital world, wide spread of simplified virtual mockups and simulacra;
- Post-truth in its heyday, with public perception shaped more by means of addressing feelings and personal opinion rather than actual facts, with fakes, clickbaits, hypes and other tools introduced to form post-reality in the political and media culture.

The international conference will provide a platform for discussing the above mentioned and other problems, phenomena and trends that have come into focus in the last decade. The participants are also invited to argue on the processes that are less evident, but might significantly impact the socio-cultural landscape in the nearest future.

The conference will contribute to balancing the pace of development in the field of information, communication and related technologies and the ability of science and the society to comprehend the changing reality and thus influence the vector and nature of progress

In 2018 Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, successfully hosted the first-ever international conference on Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the Digital Age to gather representatives of 40 countries. The conference resulted in adopting its final document – the Ugra Declaration “Information and Communication in the Digital Age” with the following recommendations:

- UNESCO Member States, relevant intergovernmental and public organizations, UN agencies and other stakeholders should reach a consensus on the preparation of a global report on sociocultural transformations accompanied and influenced by the prevalence of digital technologies. The report should be based on a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to ensure a better insight of the present and future challenges, which requires joint efforts by ethics, social sciences, humanities and cyber scientists and developers. In addition they must establish and support the activity of an interdisciplinary working group on cyber trends and emerging cyber technologies envisaging their potential impacts on society. This cooperation will not set limits to innovation but will promote “informed” innovation
- All relevant stakeholders should take steps to enable individuals to better manage the collection, storage, analysis and sharing of their personal data and digital footprint and to protect the privacy of users against intrusion, misuse and abuse by both governmental agencies and private sectors. Regulation should be elaborated on the limits of the use of personal data. Designers, developers and other stakeholders who are working with algorithms that process personal data should abide by Code of Ethics proposed by computer science and engineering societies such as The IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems and ACM Principles for Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability.
- Concerned stakeholders, specifically governments, academics, and civil society organizations as well as experts from the scientific community, librarians and teachers should contribute to the elaboration of educational and learning programmes concerning the ethical, legal, systemic, cultural and social aspects of living in a world saturated by digital communication and media. Such programmes should broadly and massively promote the empowerment and raise the competency level of citizens (with a special priority towards the youth), in particular through increasing the level of media and information literacy.
- Access to knowledge is a condition for informed/knowledge-based societies. Open science must thus be a priority for governments and research institutions. Their policies and action plans must ensure sustainable and linguistically more diverse open access to scholarly communication, research data and open educational resources, facilitated by digital technologies.

All these and other issues will be further debated at the II international conference “Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the Digital Age”.

Conference activities will include plenary sessions and section work; a round table on the problem of balance between freedom of expression in the digital environment and information security will also be held with the support of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation).

Conference Conveners

- Government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area – Ugra

- Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO
- UNESCO / UNESCO Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP)
- Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme
- UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education
- Interregional Library Cooperation Centre

Conference Participants

The event is expected to bring together about 100 experts from 40 countries, representing intergovernmental, international, regional and national non-governmental organizations, universities and research centres, public authorities, institutions working in the field of information and communication, science, culture, education.

Invitations will be forwarded to national commissions for UNESCO and permanent delegations to UNESCO of all IFAP Intergovernmental Council Member States. Individual invitations will also be forwarded to acknowledged experts.

Working Languages

Russian and English (simultaneous interpretation).

Applicants approved by the Organising Committee will be sent a personal invitation and detailed information on the participation.

No registration fee is charged.

For participants having their registration for the conference confirmed **by an official letter** by the Organizing Committee, the following costs are covered:

- Moscow – Khanty-Mansiysk return flight (group flight, economy class);
- Group transfer in Moscow (from the office of the International Library Cooperation Centre to the airport of departure);
- Transfers in Khanty-Mansiysk;
- Accommodation in the [Cronwell Resort Ugorskaya Dolina](#) for 4 nights from 9 June (arrival day) to 13 June 2019 (departure day);
- Meals (welcome reception, lunches, dinners, coffee-breaks)
- Cultural programme
- Information and analytical materials.

The international conference “Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the Digital Age” organized in cooperation with UNESCO/IFAP, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, from 9 to 12 June 2019

The panel "Artificial Intelligence and Challenges to International Psychological Security"

	Alexey AVERKIN, PhD in Mathematical Cybernetics Associate Professor of Mathematical Economics and Informatics Department of Plekhanov Russian Economic University, Scientific Council Member of Russian Association on Artificial Intelligence, Vice-president of Russian Association on Fuzzy Systems and Soft Computing. Areas of research: Artificial Intelligence, Fuzzy Systems, Neural Networks, Genetic algorithms, Probability Theory, Decision Making, Smart Adaptive Systems, Author of more than 140 academic articles and books. Member of Editorial Boards of International peer-reviewed journals, Chairman and member of Program Committees of International Conferences. Participation in the European Projects (ESPRIT, ERUDIT, EUNITE, ISTC). Head of a number of projects in Russian Basic Research Foundation and in Ministry of Science and Education.
	Darya BAZARKINA, DSc in Politics, PhD in History Professor at the Department for International Security and Foreign Affairs at the Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation (RANEPA). Research Coordinator on Communication Management and Strategic Communication, International Center for Socio-Political Studies and Consulting (ICSPSC). Senior Researcher at the School of International Relations at the Saint Petersburg State University. Member of the research associations: National Law Enforcement Agencies' History Studies' Community, East European International Studies Association (CEEISA), International Experts' Network “European Union – Russia – Communication Management” (EURUCM). 70 other publications on communication aspects of terrorism and counter-terrorism in Russia and Europe on Russian, English and Serbian languages. Participant of more than 40 international academic conferences and seminars in Russia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Turkey. Darya is an author of 3 books and of more than 70 publications on communication aspects of the counter-terrorist activity published in Russian, English and Serbian languages.



Mitchell BELFER

The president of the Euro-Gulf Information Centre (Rome, Italy), Senior Lecturer in International Relations, Terrorism and Security at the Metropolitan University Prague (Czech Republic) and Editor in Chief of the Central European Journal of International and Security Studies. Additionally, Mitchell sits on the Steering Committee of the Global Institute for Cybersecurity Technologies, is a Member of the Scientific Council for the Centre of Post-Communist Political Studies at the University of Craiova (Romania) and is a Consulting Editor for the start-up Gulf Economics magazine—among other editorial, research and scientific boards. In addition to his numerous works of scholarship and presentations in academic and political forums, Mitchell is also a frequent international media contributor and has appeared on the BBC and CNN, often speaks on Radio France International (among other outlets) and has written for the Wall Street Journal, National Review, the Government Gazette, Parliament Magazine, Formiche (Italian) and an assortment of others. Mitchell specialises in security related issues in the Arab Gulf and wider Middle East region with an emphasis on: terrorism, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, radical ideologies, small state foreign policies and geopolitics. Mitchell's last monograph Small State, Dangerous Region: A Strategic Assessment of Bahrain, was released in 2014 by Peter Lang Publishing in Frankfurt, Germany.



Frederic LABARRE

Strategic and security analyst who has managed a variety of projects specializing in the former Soviet Union. From 2004 to 2007, he was the first Advanced Distributed Learning Chair at the NATO Defense College, where he established a knowledge portal for the NDC, as well as the policies and systems for NATO distance learning. From 2008 to 2010, he was the first Head of Department of Political and Strategic Studies at the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia. In addition to lecturing on international theory and strategic issues, managing department affairs, he also advised on the Bologna Process of program accreditation, created curricula for an accredited MA program, and created an embryonic distance learning concept. Since 2010, he has worked as a consultant for Public Safety Canada, the Royal Military College of Canada, Agriculture Canada, Defence Research and Development Canada as well as private sector agents. He has also been appointed Co-chair of the Regional Stability in the South Caucasus Study Group, sponsored by the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes in 2012. A member of the PfP Consortium editorial board from 2005 to 2019, he is also widely published in French and English on the topics of NATO-Russia relations, Canadian defence policy, Estonian foreign and defence policy, Russian defence and security policy, international relations theory, and the former Soviet Union, including the Caucasus.



Evgeny PASHENTSEV

Doctor in History (Latin American Studies). Leading researcher at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, professor at the Chair of Philosophy of Language and Communication in Lomonosov Moscow State University. Director of the International Centre for Social and Political Studies and Consulting. Co-coordinator of the International Expert Network EU-RU-CM. Author or editor of 33 books and more than 100 academic articles. Presentation of papers at more than 150 international conferences and seminars for the last 10 years in 18 countries. Areas of research: strategic communication, international security, perspective technologies and social development. Member of the international Advisory Board of *Comunicar* (Spain) and the editorial board of *The Journal of Political Marketing* (the USA).



Olga POLUNINA

Associate professor at the Russian State Social University, the senior researcher at the International Centre for Social and Political Studies and Consulting. Member of Russian International Studies Association (RISA), the European Public Relations Education and Research Association (EUPRERA, Brussels), East European International Studies Association (CEEISA, Prague). For the last ten years took part in more than 30 international conferences and seminars in nine countries. The co-author of a monograph and numerous articles. The post-doctoral studies are going on in the area of strategic communication of the countries of Latin America.



Alexander RAIKOV

Professor, Doctor of Technical Sciences, State advisor of the Russian Federation of the 3rd class, Winner of the Russian government award in the field of Science and Technology, General Director of the New Strategies Agency (NSA) Ltd. Professor of the State Technological University (Russia), Leading researcher of the Institute of Control Sciences of Russian Academy of Sciences, Senior Researcher of the National Center of Excellence in the field of Digital Economy of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Chief researcher of the Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences. Prior to 1993, Prof. A. Raikov developed automated control systems for the Russian Government. In 1993 – 1999, he was the head of the Information-analytical Department of the President Administration and coordinator of the Situation

	Center of the Russian President. Since 1999, he and his team have completed about 60 projects for: the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, the Government of the city of Moscow, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and etc. Prof. Raikov developed strategies for improving the quality of health care and education in the regions and scientific cities of Russia.
	Marco RICCERI Expert, European social and labour policies, is acting as general secretary of the EURISPES, a primary Italian research institute in the economic, social, territorial development. Ricceri is also: coordinator of the Ethic Committee of the A.E.I. – European Agency of Investments, Geie, Bruxelles; enrolled in the list of “Pool of Reviewers” of the ESF-European Science Foundation, Strasbourg, for: “European Social Policy”, “Industrial Relations”. Co-coordinator of the International Expert Network EURUCM. Co-founder and coordinator of the European Research Group “European Social Model” (London-Bremen-Rome). Founding member of EAVI-European Association for Viewers Interests (Brussels), dealing with the dissemination of Media Literacy and Media Education. Ricceri was awarded the Degree <i>Honoris Causa</i> in European Policies by the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, IE-RAS.
	Fatima ROUMATE PhD Dr. Fatima Roumate is an Associate Professor of international economic law in the university Mohammed V, Faculty of law, economic and social sciences Agdal Rabat. President and founder of l’Institut International de la Recherche Scientifique. She received the Award titled “<i>Iconic Leaders Creating a Better World for All</i>” in the Women Economic Forum 2017 organized by ALL Ladies League in The Hague in Netherland. Speaker in more than thirty international conferences one of them was organized in the House of State in Finlande. She was nominated by the Department of States of USA to participate to the IVLP International Visitor Leadership. She published several books and indexed articles. She organized lot off session of training for elected women and entrepreneurs and she organized lot off conferences about equality, empowerment and women entrepreneurship. She was expert of the Council of Europe from 2014 to 2016 in cyber security and cyber criminality.

	Pierre-Emmanuel THOMANN French researcher, lecturer and expert in Geopolitics (Doctor from the French Institute of Geopolitics, Paris 8 University, France, 2014). He teaches geopolitics (ISSEP Lyon) and is the president/founder of an international association (EUROCONTINENT) based in Brussels, Belgium, to promote geopolitical analysis and foster common interests identification between nations and states at EU with a focus on Franco-German relations, pan-European (including Russia), Eurasian (Central Asia) and Euro-Mediterranean scales. He participated in 2016 as an expert to the “EU-Russia Experts Network” organized by the EU delegation in Moscow. He was also adviser at the European Institute of International Relations (IERI-Brussels) from 2007 to 2014, a think-tank specialized in European strategic issues. Previously, he was the Director of a French region representation office towards the EU (1997–2006). He also worked in Germany (1996), in Netherlands (1993), and United Kingdom (1990-1992).
	Erik VLAEMINC, MA Erik Vlaeminck holds a MA in Eastern European and Slavonic Studies from KU Leuven (Belgium) and a MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies from Leiden University graduating with a Distinction in 2015. He is currently enrolled as a PhD student in Russian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. In 2018, he was a visiting scholar at the University of Tyumen where he participated in a research project on cultural relations and public diplomacy in Siberia. Erik’s current research interests include Russia-EU relations, various aspects of strategic communications and mass communications. Erik has worked as an external consultant in International Affairs for the Centre for Cultural Relations at the University of Edinburgh where he focused on public diplomacy as well as issues related to soft power. Currently, Erik is a researcher for SYM consulting, a London-based company specialised in digital influence and international cultural relations.
 Marius Văcărelu - specialist în geopolitică	Marius VACARELU PhD. Political scientist and legal expert. Graduated from the Law Faculty in Bucharest. He teaches public law in the National School of Political Science and Public Administration since 2005. Member of the committee which edits the Romanian magazine “GeoPolitica”. Head of the “The Geopolitics of the East Association” which runs the website www.geopoliticaestului.ro. Author / co-author / coordinator of 18 books and more than 140 scientific articles. Marius Vacarelu is a frequent speaker on Romanian television on geopolitics issues. He is a blogger to Romania’s most important journal Romania – “Adevarul” – http://adevarul.ro/blogs/marius.vacarelu. He presented papers and published articles in Russia, Czech Republic, France, Poland and the United Kingdom.