

RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW

Call for Papers

Hannah Arendt and the Boundaries of the Public Sphere

The *Russian Sociological Review* invites scholars in the fields of theoretical sociology, social philosophy, intellectual history and the related disciplines in the social sciences and humanities to contribute to a special issue devoted to Hannah Arendt and the problem of the boundaries of public sphere.

Hannah Arendt is one of the most vigorous advocates of public politics and agonistic debate among contemporary political philosophers. Because of our essential plurality, humans can access and preserve their common world “only to the extent that many people can talk about it and exchange their opinions and perspectives with one another, over against one another”.

However, Arendt’s position is challenged by the recent transformations of democracy which are making us reconsider the limits of political discussion. With both traditional and new media undergoing a radical transformation, it is becoming increasingly common to deny political opponents the moral right to justify their position in public debate. This pattern can be observed across the political spectrum and also across borders: in some places in the world many refuse to debate with the rising extreme right, while in other places it is the liberals who are considered traitors and therefore excluded from public discussion. The outcome is a remarkable fragmentation of the public sphere and the coexistence of communities holding incompatible views of reality.

Arendt’s thought is a promising point to access the problem of who can and who cannot be admitted to the public forum. While arguing for the cultivation of plurality as a political virtue, she nevertheless calls for responsible politics which implies protecting the public sphere. Arendt is no less famous for noticing the intrinsic link between freedom and lying in politics than for her alarming analyses of totalitarianism. How can these positions be reconciled and/

or synthesized in an age of 'alternative facts', 'post-truths' and the threatening encapsulation of people within their echo chambers?

Arendt's own positions have been criticized many times for going beyond the admissible, from her nuanced reflection on the Holocaust to alleged contamination by Nazi philosophy. The lessons from Arendt's controversial biography for present-day politics are still to be drawn.

The *Russian Sociological Review* invites submissions focusing on how Arendt's political concepts can be used to establish justified limits for public discussion and promoting public politics today. How can politics benefit from conflict and control it? Are there any positions and ideologies to be disqualified from public debate? In what ways are individuals responsible for upholding pluralism? How should the public sphere accommodate new types of political lies? How can Arendt's vision of the political be mobilized to answer the political challenges of the present day?

Schedule

July 1, 2018 — 500 words abstracts deadline

July 15, 2018 — Invitation to submit full papers

September 15, 2018 — 6000 words full papers deadline

October 1, 2018 — Notification of acceptance

November 1, 2018 — Revised papers deadline

December, 2018 / March 2019 — Publication

Contributions should be sent via e-mail to the editor-in-chief Professor Alexander Filippov (afilippov@hse.ru) and Dr Nail Farkhatdinov (sociologica@hse.ru).

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Dr Nail Farkhatdinov (sociologica@hse.ru).

Papers should be no more than **12,000** words and written in English. See website of the *Review* for the detailed guidelines for authors (sociologica.hse.ru/en/authors).

About the *Russian Sociological Review*

The *Russian Sociological Review* is an academic peer-reviewed journal of theoretical, empirical and historical research in social sciences. It publishes four issues per year. Each issue includes original research papers, review articles and translations of contemporary and classical works in sociology, political theory and social philosophy. The journal focuses on the fundamental issues of social sciences from various conceptual and methodological perspectives. Understood broadly the fundamental issues include but are not limited to: social action and agency, social order, narrative, space and time, mobilities, power, etc. The journal is indexed by Scopus, Web of Science—Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI), Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), Ebsco, DOAJ, Ulrichsweb, IBZ (International Bibliography of Periodical Literature), IBR (International Bibliography of Book Reviews of Scholarly Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences), Citefactor and other databases.