

INTERNATIONAL OPEN SEMINAR

RUSSIAN PROTEST AND NEW MEDIA

DISCOURSES, REPERTOIRES, SYMBOLS

ANASTASIA ASTAPOVA VASIL NAVUMAU ALEXANDRA ARKHIPOVA

NOVEMBER 22, 2018, 3.00 PM - 5.00 PM

FACULTY OF "ARTES LIBERALES", NOWY ŚWIAT 69, CONFERENCE HALL



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

The rapid development of the Internet and the way that it is interwoven into our everyday lives contributes to an increase in the number of protest actions and the transformation of collective actions' types and forms. Different movements, such as the Mexican Zapatistas, the alter-globalization movement, the Spanish Indignados, Occupy, or the Russian "For Fair Elections" challenged and disrupted the hegemonic discourses, stimulating the formation of alternative practices of protest and discourses.

Because most present-day protests do not lead to the direct resignation of the ruling political elite but instead to their displacement in the face of mounting opposition, discourses, symbols and new practices their visibility and potential dominance are of vital importance in understanding the dynamics of the challenges posed to the ruling political elite by public mass protests. This seminar focuses on the major protest actions occurred in Russia in last 7 years, such as protest



"For Fair Elections", and recent Anti-corruption protests: although the logic and the immediate and long-lasting repercussions of those protests significantly changed, activists used social media to communicate about the aims and means of their collective actions.



ANASTASIYA ASTAPOVA is a research fellow at the Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu. She has recently defended her PhDs on student humour (Academy of Sciences, Russia 2016) and Belarusian political folklore and nationalism (University of Tartu, Estonia 2015). She published over 30 peer-reviewed works on various genres of political expressions, including protests, rumors, jokes, and conspiracy theories in post-Soviet states. Her current project “Performative Negotiations of

Belonging and Non-Belonging in Contemporary Estonia” (Estonian Research Council) is on migration and integration in Estonia.



VASIL NAVUMAU is a Global Dialogues Fellow, “*Artes Liberales* Institute” Foundation, Faculty of “*Artes Liberales*”, University of Warsaw. In 2014, he obtained PhD in Sociology at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Within the last five years he published a book and completed several articles, devoted to the transformation of protest activism in Belarus under the influence of Internet. The book “The Belarusian Maidan: A New Social Movement Approach to the Tent Camp Protest

in Minsk” was shortlisted for the International Congress of Belarusian Studies’ Awards in “The Best Monograph of 2016” category. He is a co-founder of the Fund on Development of E-Government in Belarus, within which he publishes policy papers, organises lectures and seminars with participation of foreign experts to inform Belarusians about the benefits of e-government.



ALEXANDRA ARKHIPOVA: Senior Research Fellow, Head of the «Contemporary folklore monitoring» research group, Center for Theoretical Folklore Studies, School of Advanced Studies in the Humanities, the Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA); Associate Professor, Center for Typological and Semiotic Folklore Studies, Russian State University for the Humanities; Senior Research Fellow, Center for Urban Anthropology and

Folklore, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences; Visiting Professor, Higher School of Economics (Higher School of Economics and New Economic School joint BA program).