



**РАНХиГС**  
РОССИЙСКАЯ АКАДЕМИЯ НАРОДНОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА  
И ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ СЛУЖБЫ  
ПРИ ПРЕЗИДЕНТЕ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

## The Varieties of Russian Modernity II: Religion, State, and Approaches to Pluralism in Russian Contexts

19  
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Over the three days from May 14-16 2014, the Center for Russian Studies and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration hosted the international conference The Varieties of Russian Modernity II: Religion, State, and Approaches to Pluralism in Russian Contexts. The conference was organized by Christopher Stroop (RANEPА),

Alexander Agadjanian (RGGU), and Dmitry Uzlaner (RANEPА), and was the second conference organized as part of a larger scholarly initiative on rethinking religion and secularism in Russian contexts organized by Stroop and Ana Siljak (Queen's University, Canada).

Along with Alyssa DeBlasio (Dickinson College, USA), Siljak and Stroop organized the first "Varieties" conference at RANEPА, The Varieties of Russian Modernity: Rethinking Religion, Secularism, and the Influence of Russia in the Modern World, which took place at RANEPА on June 7-9, 2013. Stroop and Siljak, who was present at the 2014 conference, are pursuing a co-edited volume based on the research presented at the first "Varieties" conference with Northern Illinois University Press, while some of the research from the second "Varieties" conference is slated for a special issue of RANEPА's open access, electronic, English-language religious studies journal, State, Religion and Church (edited by Stroop, Uzlaner, Agadjanian, and Alexander Kyrlezhev).

While the 2013 conference cast a wide thematic net, the 2014 conference tackled the problem of pluralism specifically, seeking, to quote from the Call for Papers, "to contribute to our ongoing discussions of these important global issues by examining the case of Russia, which has been a multi-national, multi-confessional state since before the development of modern conceptions of toleration and co-existence." As in the previous year, the conference organizers brought together a strong international group, including well known Russian specialists such as Sergei Borisovich Filatov (Russian Academy of Sciences), and leading Western scholars such as Paul Werth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA) and Kristina Stoeckl (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna), to name just a few examples. As before, the quality of the scholars selected facilitated substantive discussions that have contributed to the advancement of scholarship on religion and

secularism in the Russian Empire, the USSR, the post-Soviet space, and beyond. The 2014 conference saw the addition of a keynote address, delivered by Werth, one of the world's leading experts on religious issues in the Russian Empire (some of whose work has been translated into Russian). The keynote address and a few other talks of a historical nature provided essential context for the many presentations that tackled more contemporary concerns. The conference included analysis of issues related to the Russian Orthodox Church, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, New Religious Movements, and contemporary Russian moral and religious education in public schools. In the forthcoming special issue of *State, Religion and Church*, the editors plan to publish revised versions of the strong papers presented by Filatov, Sergei Shtyrkov (European University in St. Petersburg), Regula Zwahlen (University of Fribourg), James Meador (University of Michigan), and Eugene Clay (Arizona State University). A subsequent special issue will most likely publish more research than was presented at the conference.

