



**DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A NEW ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS
IN THE HUMANITIES**

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Declaration on the Establishment of a New Association of Academic Journals in the Humanities

FROM THE EDITORS

On 25 March 2022 at the European University at St Petersburg a round table was held on “Russian Journals in the Humanities in a Changing Academic Landscape”. At the centre of the discussion was the question of establishing an Association of Journals in the Humanities. It was understood that the priority for such an Association would be the creation of a mechanism for interaction between the editorial boards or committees of journals dealing with topics in the humanities and social sciences and their effective response to external challenges.

The starting-point for the participants in the discussion was that there is unlikely to be any reduction in the near future in the level of incompetence in the administration of scholarship in Russia; and in these conditions the majority agreed that bringing together independent journals in such an Association would be beneficial, in that it would add weight to each and all of them that joined the Association.

As a result, it was decided to establish the said Association, and after discussion the participants in the round table agreed the Declaration which we publish below.

In April 2022, after a vote of all the signatories to the Declaration, Dr. Irina Prokhorova, chief editor of the *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie* publishing house, was elected President of the Association for the first term.

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Whereas

- the development of the situation gives no reason for supposing that the quality of academic administration will improve in the near future,
- a voluntary association increases the weight of each journal that is part of the association,
- a voluntary association of scholarly publications will be capable of being an independent source of expertise that could resist the transformation of scholarship into an autarky and the proliferation of “predatory” journals, dishonest articles and the general transformation of peer review into a superficial and meaningless process,

we, as journal editors, hereby declare the establishment of an Association of Academic Journals in the humanities and social sciences, a voluntary informal association.

The aims of the Association are:

- to combine the efforts of scholarly journals in maintaining high standards in the humanities and social sciences;
- to preserve the international status of Russian research in the humanities and social sciences;
- to strengthen links within the informal qualified expert community in the humanities and social sciences;
- to increase the role of the expert in the evaluation of scholarly activities against the background of its growing trivialisation, and to develop high-quality criteria of evaluation;
- to encourage the rise in quality of scholarly publications, including by research into the level and quality of journals and their publication policies, the organisation of reviews and discussions and of thematic round tables and sections at professional fora;
- to exchange ideas in the field of publishing journals in the humanities, to preserve scholarly journals as centres for the development and discussion of new scholarly directions, and to follow the best traditions of world scholarship;
- to defend the interests of scholarly journals in the humanities at the local and federal organs of academic administration;
- to create a common internet platform for effective communication between members of the Association;
- to defend the interests of the journals that are members of the Association in other ways.

In order to achieve the stated goals, the Association is formulating a Provisional Statement, which describes the Association’s regime of work, the procedure for accepting new members and the procedure for leaving the Association.

Signatories

Sergey Sergeyeovich Alymov, CHS¹, chief editor of the journal *Antropologii / Anthropologies*

Lyudmila Anatolyevna Alyabyeva, CPS², chief editor of the journal *Teoriya mody: odezhdta, telo, kultura*

Mariya Vyacheslavovna Akhmetova, CPS, deputy chief editor of the journal *Zhivaya starina* and deputy chief editor of the journal *Shagi / Steps*

Vsevolod Yevgenyevich Bagno, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chief editor of the journal *Russkaya literatura*

Albert Kafshullovich Baiburin, DHS³, chief editor of the journal *Antropologicheskij forum*

Olga Vladislavovna Belova, DPS⁴, chief editor of the journal *Zhivaya starina*

Elena Lvovna Berezovich, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chief editor of the journal *Voprosy onomastiki*

Anna Vladimirovna Dybo, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chief editor of the journal *Ural-altayskiye issledovaniya*, deputy chief editor of the journal *Rossiyskaya tyurkologiya*

Aleksey Leonidovich Elfimov, CHS, PhD, chief editor of the journal *Etnograficheskoye obozreniye*

Valentin Vadimovich Golovin, DPS, deputy chief editor of the journal *Russkaya literatura*

Evgeny Vasilyevich Golovko, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chief editor of the journal *Acta Linguistica Petropolitana. Trudy Instituta lingvisticheskikh issledovaniy*

Nikolay Nikolayevich Kazanskiy, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chief editor of the journal *Indoyevropeyskoye yazykoznaniye i klassicheskaya filologiya*

Kirill Rafailovich Kobrin, CHS, chief editor of the journal *Neprikosnovennyy zapas*

Svetlana Gennadyevna Maslinskaya, CPS, co-editor of the journal *Detskie chteniya*

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³ Doctor of Historical Sciences.

⁴ Doctor of Philological Sciences.

Sergey Yuryevich Neklyudov, DPS, chief editor of the journal *Folklor: struktura, tipologiya, semiotika*

Yuliya Viktorovna Normanskaya, DPS, deputy chief editor of the journal *Uralo-altayskiye issledovaniya*

Aleksandr Valeryevich Pigin, DPS, member of the editorial board of the journal *Slovesnost i istoriya*

Irina Dmitriyevna Prokhorova, CPS, chief editor of the publishing house *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*

Darya Aleksandrovna Radchenko, CCS¹, deputy chief editor of the journal *Folklor i antropologiya goroda*

Irina Aleksandrovna Sedakova, DPS, chief editor of the journal *Slavyanovedenie*

Svetlana Alekseevna Semyachko, DPS, joint chief editor of the journal *Slovesnost i istoriya*

Sergei Valeryevich Sokolovskiy, DHS, deputy chief editor of the journal *Etnograficheskoye obozreniye*

Dmitriy Vladimirovich Spiridonov, CPS, deputy chief editor of the journal *Voprosy onomastiki*

Andrey Boleslavovich Shluinskiy, CPS, joint chief editor of the journal *Language in Africa*

Tatiana Vladislavovna Vaizer, CPS, PhD, chief editor of the journal *Novoye literaturnoye obozreniye*

Nikolai Borisovich Vakhtin, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, deputy chief editor of the journal *Antropologicheskij forum*

Aleksandr Yuryevich Zheltov, DPS, joint chief editor of the journal *Language in Africa*

Elena Vladimirovna Zheltova, CPS, chief editor of the journal *Philologia Classica*

Provisional Statement on The Constitution of the New Association of Academic Journals in the Humanities

The Association is an informal association, it is not a juridical subject, and is not registered anywhere.

The Association is founded by its founding members, who have signed the Declaration on the Establishment of the Association.

¹ Candidate of Cultural Studies.

Founding members have the right, but are not obliged, to become members of the Council of the Association.

The Council of the Association consists of chief editors of journals that are members of the Association, or of members of editorial boards or committees who have been nominated by their chief editors to represent the journal at the Council. The council meets once a year, in March, in on-line format. If necessary, at the request of not less than one half of the members of the Association, extraordinary meetings of the Council may be held.

The members of the Council elect the Chairman and Secretary of the Council for a term of one year.

New members of the Association may be accepted at a meeting of the Council, on the recommendation of at least three members of the Association, by a qualified majority of votes (two thirds of the listed membership). Any member may leave the Association at any time by means of a written declaration of its chief editor(s) sent to all the members of the Association.