

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Ecology and/or Religion

Name of Session Convener(s): *Maria Serafimova*, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad

Chair: *Maria Serafimova*, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad

Comments: -

I) Meulrcif, Benignity, Solidarity

Iveta Asenova Yakova, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad

II) Cyberspace as an Object of Empirical Research

Vladimir Dulov, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad

III) Environment Sustainability and Sustainable Development: Economic and Cultural Backgrounds

Asghar Mirfardi, Yasouj University

IV) The Attempt to Create Civil Society through Ecology Ideals in Bulgaria

Evgeni Vasilev, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad

V) New Dimensions of Religiosity

Mariya Serafimova, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad

Session description:

Ecology reminds of itself. It's becoming more and more evident how vast its field of study is. Ecological motives and considerations should become a major factor when taking governmental decisions. The norms and recommendations of ecologists are ignored all too often, and this is caused mostly by objective reasons but also by subjective ones. In societies that are connected with nature, not against her face to make her obey, and found it both its extension and its impact, certainly have kinship between the sacred and the political. Both categories can be defined simultaneously as the principles and the relationships that they suggest "match" each other. In today's situation changes and transformations "things" become another different meaning. This creates a sense of doubt, confusion and transience. There is a need for security, support of the modern world, which seems not to unite the idea of common good. This could certainly give values and search for meaning, without which everything becomes chaos and futility.

Abstracts:*I) Meulrcif, Benignity, Solidarity*

Iveta Asenova Yakova, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

Must Nature and ecological balance remind about themselves in order for us to unite behind the cause to help others? In such moments we seem to forget about our own survival, neglecting comfort and well-being, to help those whose life has been devastated by another flood or other natural disaster. The benevolence of Nature and good health are those values that the primitive peasant worshiped because they allow him to actively participate in "making" food. Forgotten today, they re-acquire the same sacred meaning in such moments, when meteorology and nature remind about themselves despite forecasts. Then people realize how dependent and helpless they are, the same way as when their health is at risk or that of someone close to them. Can we master nature today? And are you able to achieve a balance between the need to unite with her and our self-assertion?

II) Cyberspace as an Object of Empirical Research

Vladimir Dulov, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

The paper discusses methodological reasons for sociological research in cyberspace and specific requirements for proper conducting empirical surveys. The author analyzes research tools, relevant to the new properties of social interaction in virtual reality and considers the methods and techniques for sociological research in Internet

III) Environment Sustainability and Sustainable Development: Economic and Cultural Backgrounds

Asghar Mirfardi, Yasouj University

Environmental destruction is one of the most problems for sustainable development. This paper evaluated the economic and cultural backgrounds of environmental sustainability, especially in undeveloped and developing countries. This study is done via documental method and existing resource (including archive and official reports about environmental condition in the world). This paper evaluated the economic and cultural factors corresponding with environmental sustainability. Reviewing the situation of environment biodiversity in the world show that both of economic and cultural situations influencing the environment sustainability. As sustainability related to human behaviors and actions, and these, in their parts; depend on cultural factors such as awareness and socio-cultural values and attitudes towards environment, cultural backgrounds have critical role in sustainability of environment, and sustainable development at whole. Social theory and researches of Inglehart on World Value Survey showed this fact. Economic situation, as well, which involving livelihood, income, and economic welfare and facilities, influencing the kind of human behaviors towards environmental biodiversity. Both of two backgrounds have direct and interactive impact on the environment sustainability. As Inglehart showed, for example, while developed countries emphasis on environment preservation in their value priorities, undeveloped countries assist on social values which respecting the social and economic security and political orientations. The importance of economic and cultural backgrounds in sustainable development emerge new mission for current and future sociology.

IV) The Attempt to Create Civil Society through Ecology Ideals in Bulgaria

Evgeni Vasilev, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

There are few linking ideals for the people in Bulgaria, because of the specific development of the society. The political life didn't produce confident understanding for democracy, socialism, liberalism or conservatism, and every political party changed its course depending on its own interests, never regarding previously stated ideals. In this immoral setting, the Ecology, and most of the political parties stating such ideals, stands out as understandable ideal, and it attracted a lot of followers, mainly among the younger population in Bulgaria. Later it led to a lot of organized protests, based on these ideals, and gradually small civil community was created. Here will be discussed its development and also the possibility of creating a whole civil society based on Ecology ideals, or its failure?

V) New Dimensions of Religiosity

Mariya Serafimova, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

The modern man of the XXI-the century chooses his preferred beliefs and values in a pluralistic world. The past is no longer a perfect world, which regulates things. It is an imperfect world and the subject of dispute. In the postmodern culture, individuals look for ways to orient their worlds. In such a situation, ascertainments like "*God is dead*", "*The end of dreams*" unexpectedly turn out to be accompanied by a certain "invisible" religiosity, which penetrates throughout the so-called secular societies. Because of this the existence of societies is impossible without religions – neither authentic, nor the so-called "earthly", civil or laic religions. The religious man is more like a nomad, that hardly defines his time travelling. Everyone is free to adopt and abandon the symbolic content of religious systems that they like. This is the transition from world religions to something that can be defined as "personal religion", to this type of religiosity, in which individuals construct their own conceptual system. Such kind of belief seems to be the hallmark of modern societies in which there is a Copernican turn in the religious consciousness.