

## Space in/for environmental humanities: reconsidering the global through studying peripheries



*South Urals, Russia*

The summer school is supported by the grant of the Russian Government, project “Human in changing space of the Urals and Siberia”.

**Deadline for submissions:** May 1, 2022.

**Contact email:** [anthroschool@utmn.ru](mailto:anthroschool@utmn.ru).

**Venue:** Sverdlovsk oblast', Russia (to be specified)

**Dates:** August 22-28, 2022.

The idea of the summer school is twofold: by looking at the different categories and types of spaces found in the environmental humanities (frontier, landscape, boundary, center and periphery), we propose to look also at how theories, knowledge, and insights generated by the environmental humanities can affect these categories in different contexts.

For a long time space - especially natural one - was perceived as a background for human actions. The development of the humanities in the twentieth century endowed it with its own agency, revealing the heterogeneity and dynamism of the spaces in which human societies develop. In recent decades, research in this field has revealed a significant set of

problems that previously remained largely unattended: the relationship between natural and political boundaries, the agency of landscapes, the distribution of benefits and costs between central and peripheral regions.

Keeping in mind methodological issues in the study of spaces, the Summer School proposes to focus on what we used to think of as peripheries on national and global scales. Peripheral territories that have long fallen off the radar of politicians and scientists (tundra, taiga, Brazilian jungle, oceans and deserts) have become particularly important in the Anthropocene because of the impact they have on the planet's climate and ecosystems. However, in many respects, they still remain poorly understood and underappreciated.

In this regard, we do not limit ourselves with moving from the humanities to the questions of space, but we also suggest the reverse. How does the advance of the environmental humanities' "frontier" into peripheral regions allow us to reconsider existing practices of interaction between society and nature? Is it capable of eliminating and creating new points on maps? What opportunities and obstacles do the environmental humanities encounter along the way?

The summer school takes place in a location that is advantageous to reasoning about the center and the periphery. The Uras, mountains separating Europe and Asia, are rich in unique and picturesque natural landscapes, but at the same time are known as an industrial region that supplied minerals and products to the Russian Empire, the USSR, and the modern Russian Federation with its center in St. Petersburg or Moscow. The chosen location of the school will combine classroom discussions with guided tours, hiking, and open-air discussions.

Master's students, doctoral candidates and early-career researchers are invited to participate in the school. In addition to masterclasses and lectures, the summer school program will include excursions in mountainous terrain, which should be taken into account when planning participation.

To apply for the summer school, please send the following documents to [anthroposchool@utmn.ru](mailto:anthroposchool@utmn.ru) by **May 1, 2022**:

- short CV (1-2 pages),
- motivation letter (1 page),
- an abstract of a current research project.

Successful candidates will be invited by July 15, 2022 to send the organizers an extended version of the text with the current research project for discussion at the school (distributed only to participants).