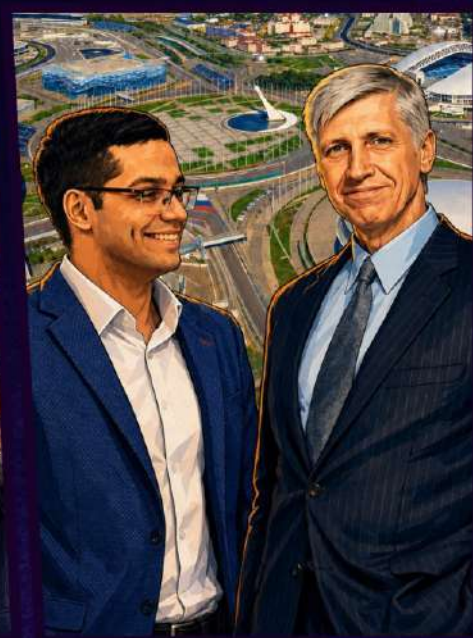




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NB! Key points from the Information letter

- † The Conference consists of eight Author-Led Thematic Sessions and two Plenary Expert Sessions.
- † Author-Led Thematic Sessions offer an individual, problem-focused approach to each topic.
- † To register, it is sufficient to submit a proposed topic and a paper outline; the full text of the article may be submitted later.
- † The Conference does not designate winners or prize recipients.
- † Co-authorship is permitted, with up to four authors per paper.
- † Applications must be submitted by **23:59 on 25 October**.
- † Participants are encouraged to express their views and engage in constructive, healthy discussion during the sessions.
- † Registration is conducted through **the "Lomonosov" portal**.
- † Research papers should be between 12,000 and 60,000 characters in length, including spaces.
- † A sample research-paper format is attached.
- † Presenting a paper is not required in order to participate.
- † You may participate in the Conference as a listener without submitting a paper. **Everyone is welcome!**
- † All sessions will be streamed on YouTube, provided that the platform remains available in Russia.
- † For any questions, please contact the designated representatives of the Organizing Committee.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

The IX International Scientific and Practical Conference **“Federalism in Contemporary Public Law”** (hereinafter, FCPL-2026 or the Conference) will take place from 2 to 14 November 2026 at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Kutafin Moscow State Law University, MGIMO University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Saint Petersburg State University, and the House of the Lawyer in Saint Petersburg (Baron A. F. Kelch Mansion).

The Conference is the largest and most authoritative specialized academic forum devoted to current issues of territorial organization.

The Conference will be held in person, with an option for remote participation. All sessions will be streamed on YouTube.

Young researchers – including students enrolled in specialist and bachelor’s programmes, master’s students, and doctoral candidates—as well as current researchers and teaching staff, Candidates and Doctors of Sciences, practising lawyers, and social scientists are invited to participate.

The working languages of the Conference are Russian and English.

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZED BY:

- Federalists' Discussion Club;
- Department of Constitutional and Municipal Law, Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL);
- Department of Constitutional and Municipal Law, Faculty of Law, Lomonosov Moscow State University;
- Department of Constitutional Law, MGIMO University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- Department of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law, Saint Petersburg State University;
- International and Constitutional Law Club, HSE University in Saint Petersburg;
- Council of Young Scholars, Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH);
- Student Study Group in Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law, Saint Petersburg State University;
- Student Council, Faculty of Law, Lomonosov Moscow State University;
- Student Research Society, Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL);
- Student Research Society, Faculty of Law, Saint Petersburg State University;
- Law Club, MGIMO University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

† **Plenary Expert Sessions** are expert discussion platforms dedicated to the public consideration of fundamental scholarly questions.

† **Author-Led Thematic Sessions** provide a forum for the presentation of papers, consideration of expert views, and subsequent discussion within a thematic cluster of scholarly issues defined by the Session Archon.

† **Symposia** are coffee breaks and other informal events designed to bring together a broad circle of like-minded participants for the discussion of scholarly questions.

†

IMPORTANT!

We highly value and respect the research contributions of all participants. For this reason, the Conference does not designate winners or prize recipients, nor does it give preferential treatment to participants on the basis of their position in the academic hierarchy or their acquaintance with the organizers. The equal evaluation of scholarly work is a fundamental principle of the Organizing Committee.

Each participant who attends a Conference session in person will receive an electronic certificate, and each presenter will receive a personalized electronic diploma.

The Federalists' Discussion Club prepares reading lists on various issues of state organization that may assist participants in preparing their papers. They are available in the Club's VK community:

<https://vk.com/federalism>

2 November 2026. Faculty of Law, Lomonosov Moscow State
University, Moscow

CONFERENCE OPENING

Plenary Expert Session on:

“united by a common destiny on our land”: challenges and PROSPECTS FOR the unity of the PEOPLES OF RUSSIA

Archons :

Vadim Korolkov

PhD in Law, Assistant Professor at the
Department of Constitutional and
Municipal Law, Faculty of Law, Lomonosov
Moscow State University; Head of the
Federalists' Discussion Club

Stanislav Sheverdyayev

Doctor of Law, Professor, Acting Head of
the Department of Constitutional and
Municipal Law, Faculty of Law, Lomonosov
Moscow State University

The President of the Russian Federation has declared 2026 the Year of the Unity of the Peoples of Russia. In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, more than 190 ethnic groups, "united by a common destiny on their land" as the multinational people of the Russian Federation, are the bearer of sovereignty and the source of all public authority. The complex composition of Russian society predetermines the federal character of the State it has established, as well as a number of related political features.

The Soviet model of federalism, which placed particular emphasis on the ethnic dimension, proved historically unsustainable, as did the earlier imperial model of relations between the centre and Russia's regions. The contemporary unity of the Russian Federation stands at a crossroads between established, familiar, yet contested approaches to addressing the "national question" and new, still unknown forms of organizing ethnic groups. The future of the Russian State depends, without exaggeration, on the continued discussion of these approaches within an interdisciplinary dialogue.

Participants in the Plenary Expert Session are invited to discuss the following questions:

- † What are the advantages and disadvantages of pre-revolutionary and Soviet approaches to addressing the "national question"?
- † Which institutional mechanisms may ensure the continuing unity of the peoples of Russia?
- † What threatens the unity of the peoples of Russia?
- † Which foreign experiences may be useful in ensuring the unity of the peoples of Russia in the face of contemporary challenges?

3 November 2026. Faculty of Law, Lomonosov Moscow State
University, Moscow

Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“the idea of the minimal state in federalism”

Archon :

Karina Tayupova

doctoral candidate at the Department of
Constitutional and Municipal Law, Faculty
of Law, Lomonosov Moscow State
University; Senior Lecturer at the
Department of International and Public
Law, Financial University under the
Government of the Russian Federation



Questions concerning the concept and limits of State intervention in the economy are fundamental to both legal and economic theory. The concept of the minimal State, together with the broader concept of limited government, offers one possible approach to resolving these questions. At the same time, both concepts remain contested in economics and law. This subject also has a clear constitutional-law dimension.

Within this session, we propose considering the idea of the minimal State in its broadest sense, rather than solely through the lens of economic practice. Under this approach, the functions of public authority should be confined to a strictly defined set of tasks—generally understood as ensuring security, protecting human and civil rights and freedoms, administering justice, and maintaining public order. The precise scope of those tasks, however, also remains open to scholarly debate. All other spheres and aspects of social life must remain strictly beyond the State—its intervention, participation, and control.

This year, we invite participants to consider whether the contemporary State should be minimal and, if so, within what limits. Are there functions that cannot be allocated among different actors? What happens where business entities assume responsibility for such functions, either voluntarily or by compulsion? How do federations accommodate the concept of the minimal State, and what outcomes does this produce? To what extent should the federal model limit the State, and which functions should remain beyond State regulation? The session will address these issues, as well as the relationship between the idea of the minimal State and the foundations of the constitutional order, particularly the principles of federalism, the social State, and the rule-of-law State.

We invite researchers, practitioners, and students to share our academic interests and take part in the session.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † Is the “minimal State” an obsolete concept or a foundation of federal relations?
- † The concept of the minimal State: from theoretical approaches to implementation in practice
- † The principle of subsidiarity in contemporary federal States
- † A common economic space and economic federalism: how to navigate between Scylla and Charybdis?

- † The “minimal” State versus the social State: antagonism or synergy?
- † Constitutional limits on State regulation of the economy
- † Who is responsible for the economic development of constituent units? Constitutional-law aspects
- † The specific features of fiscal federalism in times of economic crisis.

5 November 2026. Faculty of Law, Lomonosov Moscow State
University, Moscow

Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“Economic models of contemporary federalism”

Archon :

Irina Tretyak

PhD in Law, Associate Professor at the
Department of Public Law, HSE University;
Expert at the Higher School of Public
Administration, RANEPA



Constitutional models of federalism are substantially shaped by their economic content and by the allocation of public finances and public property. Contemporary practices of constitutional and municipal development show that tax and budgetary legislation, together with its application, often shape the profile of federalism and local self-government in a particular State even more strongly than constitutional provisions do.

The session will consider the limits of centralization and decentralization of public finances and powers in a federation; the economic capacities and rights of constituent units and municipal entities; and the financial guarantees of their autonomy.

We will examine current problems faced by many constituent units of the Russian Federation and municipalities when performing public functions in the interests of the population within a system of public authority. These include the provision of medicines for the treatment of rare (orphan) diseases and the construction of infrastructure on plots of land allocated to large families, among other issues.

The session will also examine the effectiveness of interbudgetary transfers, financial guarantees for constituent units and the ways in which they are enshrined in current legislation, as well as constitutional-review practice in these areas.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † The evolution of interbudgetary relations in a federal system
- † Current issues in the financial support of delegated powers
- † The delineation of public property in a federation
- † An economic analysis of the current state of federal relations
- † Disputes over competence between levels of public authority concerning the financial support of powers
- † Asymmetry in regional development: how can regional revenues and expenditures be balanced?
- † The Federation and the regions: principles and new approaches to the distribution of tax revenues among the Federation, constituent units, and municipalities
- † The effectiveness and incentive function of interbudgetary transfers

- † The crisis of regional and local budgets: mechanisms for ensuring the financial sustainability of territories
- † Economic federalism in the digital age
- † The transfer and redistribution of powers between levels of public authority: in search of an effective model
- † The investment attractiveness of territories: the role of regional benefits and preferences
- † Economic models of federalism in contemporary States.

6 November 2026. Kutafin Moscow State Law University, Moscow

Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“SPECIAL TERRITORIES in FEDERAL SYSTEMS”

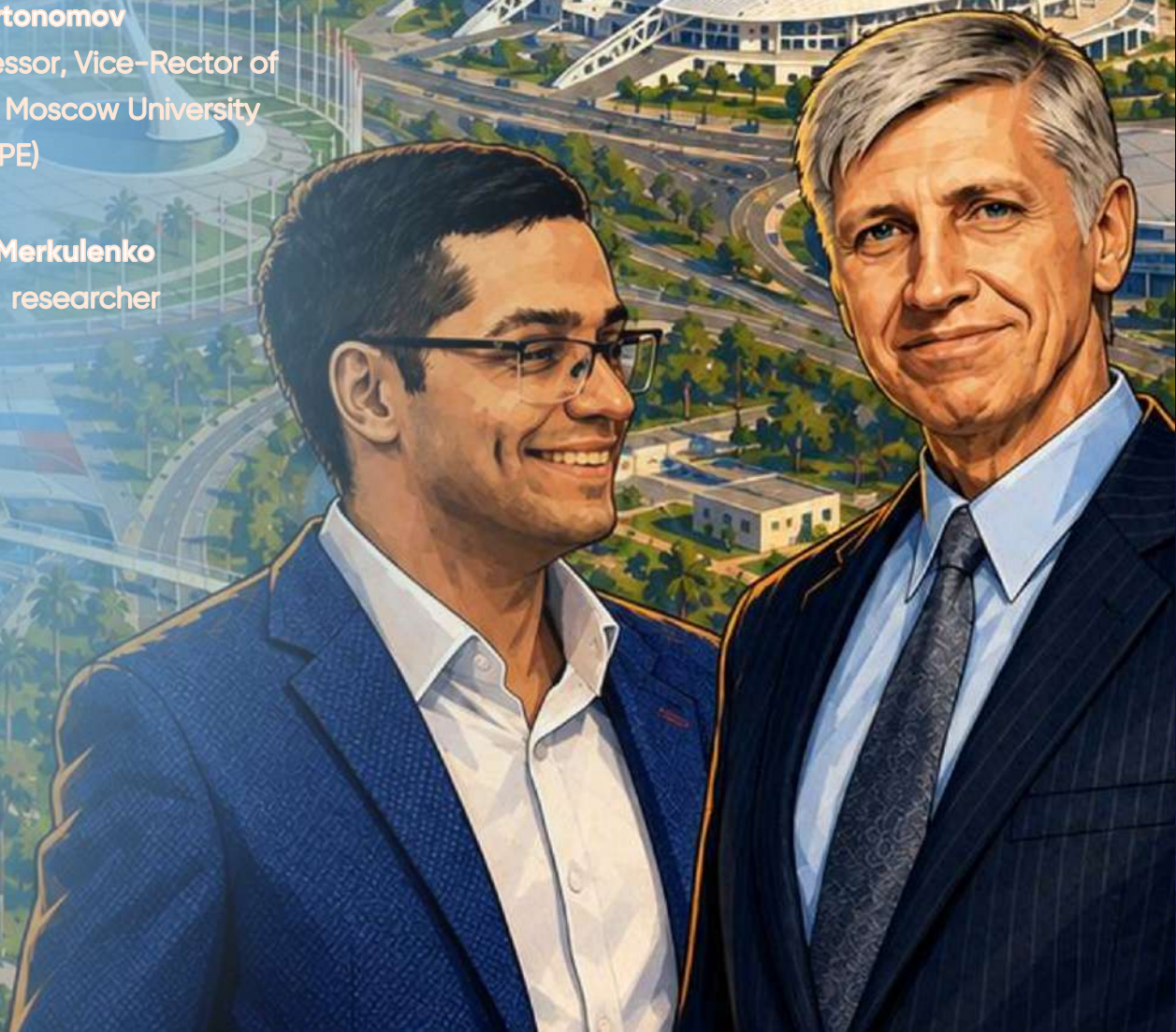
ARCHONS :

Alexei Avtonomov

Doctor of Law, Professor, Vice-Rector of
the A.S. Griboedov Moscow University
(IMPE)

Alexander Merkulenko

PhD in Law, researcher



One of the frequent—indeed, arguably inevitable—features of federalism is the asymmetry of its territories. Some constituent units have broader powers, rights, representation, and other attributes than others. In any State, the capital invariably has a special status.

However, the territorial organization of federations and decentralized States is not limited to their administrative-territorial and national-territorial units. Federations, and their constituent units, often grant particular territories a special legal status by imposing specific restrictions or, conversely, according them preferential treatment. In some cases, special bodies and institutions are established to govern such territories.

The range of these territories and the reasons for distinguishing them are diverse: natural areas, special economic zones, priority development areas, sanitary protection zones, cultural heritage protection zones, and others. A separate topic for discussion may be whether the capital of a federal State has a special status, as well as the reasons for and consequences of its constitutional and legal regime, including its effects on federal relations.

The purpose of this session is to examine the origins and practice of establishing and operating special territories in federal systems and to consider why federations create them.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † Reasons for asymmetry in different federations
- † Republics (States) within Russia: the origins of their formation and their current legal status
- † Autonomous okrugs: national-territorial entities of indigenous small-numbered peoples, or something more?
- † The institution of federal territories: the experience of contemporary federations and issues of classification
- † The Sirius Federal Territory: a breakthrough experiment or an expensive resort?
- † Capitals of federal States: a comparative legal analysis in search of common and distinctive features
- † “The Best City on Earth”: the role and significance of the capital in Russia’s legal system
- † Zones with special land-use conditions: features of their legal regime and practice

- † Special economic zones in contemporary federations
- † Special municipal entities within federal States
- † Areas of compact settlement of ethnic groups as instruments of positive and negative discrimination.

7 November 2026. Kutafin Moscow State Law University, Moscow
Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“(post-)socialist federalism”

An illustration featuring two individuals, Marina Okuneva and Egor Bogolyubov, in the foreground. Marina, on the left, is a woman with reddish-brown hair tied back, wearing glasses and a blue jacket over a patterned shirt. Egor, on the right, is a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue jacket over a white shirt. They are both looking towards the left. In the background, there is a large red flag on a pole and a building with a prominent tower and arched windows. The overall style is a stylized, painterly illustration with a dark, moody atmosphere.

Speakers :

Marina Okuneva

PhD in Law, Senior Research Fellow at the
Centre for the History of Russian Science
and Scientific and Technological
Development, Russian State University for
the Humanities; Associate Professor at the
Institute of Law, Russian State University
for the Humanities

Egor Bogolyubov

PhD in History, Associate Professor
at the Department of Theory and
History of Law and State, Faculty of
Law, HSE University in Saint
Petersburg

The USSR was the most prominent socialist State with a federal structure, but it was not the only one: the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia also existed. The territorial organization of the German Democratic Republic followed a distinctive path. The socialist experience was, in many respects, unique. Socialist States were the first in the world to employ federal principles of State organization in addressing the national question. At the same time, a high degree of centralization was ensured by the ideological leadership of a single party. Different historical periods produced diverse practices of federal construction and different actual relations between the centre and the constituent units.

Models implemented in the past continue to influence the development of contemporary federations, as well as post-socialist unitary States that were formerly constituent units of socialist federations. Historical experience must be studied in order to understand established approaches to State-building and the regulation of relations between the centre and constituent units.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † The national question and the choice of federal forms of State organization
- † Features of the territorial organization of Czechoslovakia and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- † The specific features of legislation in socialist republics as constituent units of federations: local particularities and a unified ideology
- † Legal mechanisms of the command economy in federal systems: historical development and the transition to the market
- † The State and the individual in socialist federations
- † The allocation of powers to manage particular sectors of the national economy in socialist federal systems: historical development
- † Preconditions for the dissolution of socialist federations and post-socialist development.

9 November 2026. International Law School, MGIMO University,
Moscow. Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“Beyond the Classical Federal State: Integration or Fragmentation?”

Archon:

Zlata Yegorova

Master of Laws (MGIMO),
Legal Advisor at Expobank
JSC



Federal principles beyond the classical federal state establish models for the distribution of public authority between the central government of a state and a territorial entity that does not form part of that state. Depending on the specific model, such a territory may be granted broad self-government powers, exist as a free association with a state, or possess a special constitutional status. Granting a territory a special political and legal status represents a compromise between its full integration into the state and the recognition of its independence, thereby minimizing the risks of political and territorial conflicts, preventing separatist movements, and avoiding excessive centralization.

At present, there are relatively few examples of such governance models in practice, including the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, the British Overseas Territories and the United Kingdom, among others. Their establishment has been shaped by historically developed relations between the central authority and territories with a special status. Nevertheless, in recent years, questions have increasingly emerged as to whether the existing arrangements between the center and such territories adequately address contemporary challenges. This has triggered not only academic and political debates but also referendums on changing the political and legal status of these territories.

The participants of the session are invited to discuss the following questions: How are federal principles implemented within different models? What consequences arise from the application of a particular model? How effective is the governance exercised by the central authority? To what extent do territories enjoy autonomy under these arrangements? Can existing models provide a sustainable framework capable of responding to contemporary political crises?

Suggested paper topics (exact wording is at the author's discretion):

† Federalism beyond the state: revising the concept of sovereignty, statehood and political integration.

† Territorial federalism in the USA: the case of Puerto Rico.

† The Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Caribbean: one Kingdom with multiple constitutional statuses.

† British Overseas Territories as a compromise between political integration and independence.

† French Polynesia and New Caledonia: different models of postcolonial integration.

† Free association as a new form of political integration: perspective from the United States (the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau) and New Zealand Models (the Cook Islands, or Niue) (The specific case study may be selected by the author).

10 November 2026. International Law School, MGIMO University,
Moscow. Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“TERRITORIAL DISPUTES IN POSTCOLONIAL AFRICA”

Archon:

Marya Lyubinskaya

doctoral candidate at the
Department of International Law,
International Law School, MGIMO
University of the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Russian Federation



This session continues the Conference's established line of research on African federalism. This year, we propose moving beyond the familiar framework of "federalism in African countries" and turning to a broader subject: the territorial dimension of postcolonial statehood. The discussion will focus on how relations among the centre, regions, and peripheries in Africa are formed and transformed, and on the role played in these processes by the colonial legacy, borders, conflicts, autonomy, and practices of territorial governance.

The starting point is the postcolonial legacy. Colonial maps drawn with a ruler, colonial administrative divisions, and the governance practices inherited from them are not merely historical background. They remain a living source of contemporary territorial problems. From this legacy stem the configuration of international borders, the logic of postcolonial statehood, questions of political representation, and the ways in which peripheral territories are integrated—or not integrated—into the State as a single political whole.

The central substantive focus of the session concerns models of territorial governance through which States organize their relations with regions and peripheries: the status and scope of powers of autonomous entities, provinces, and districts, as well as less formal factors that determine their actual position. These include terrain, custom, administrative convenience, lands historically inhabited by particular peoples and clans, and the real balance of power among central authorities, regional elites, and local traditional institutions. Federalism is considered in this session not as an end in itself or a universal solution, but as one means of organizing relations between the centre and the periphery and of managing territorial tensions. The historical experience of federal projects on the continent—their emergence, transformation, and dissolution—offers a basis for comparing institutional arrangements. It also makes it possible to identify what contemporary models of territorial governance in Africa have inherited from that experience, what is fundamentally new in them, and to analyze the further trajectory of their development.

The session also focuses on dynamics: what happens when territorial organization itself becomes the subject of dispute? International law and the African regional consensus substantially restrict the revision of external borders, yet they do not eliminate territorial conflict as such. It is often transferred within the State and becomes a question of the status of regions, the scope of their powers, and the internal redrawing of territorial boundaries. International,

regional, and subregional institutions are involved in these processes in one way or another.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

I. Postcolonial Legacy, Borders, and Territorial Order

† Colonial borders and political-territorial organization: the formation of the postcolonial territorial order in Africa

† The international legal regime governing State borders and territorial disputes in Africa: establishment, delimitation, demarcation, and alteration of borders

† Territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders, and the principle of *uti possidetis juris* in shaping the postcolonial order in Africa

† The practice of the International Court of Justice in territorial and boundary disputes in Africa: sources, methods, and the significance of judgments

† The relationship between the international legal status of territory and effective control (*de jure* and *de facto*) in contemporary Africa

† The postcolonial legacy of statehood and territorial integration: the formation of relations among the centre, regions, and peripheries in Africa

† The stability of international borders and changes in internal territorial organization as a means of regulating relations between the centre and the periphery in Africa

II. Centre, Periphery, and Models of Territorial Governance in Africa: Historical Experience and Contemporary Practice

† Federal projects and territorial organization in Africa: historical experience and institutional legacy

† Federalism, decentralization, autonomy, and regionalization as means of regulating relations between the centre and the periphery

† Postcolonial models of decentralization: colonial administrative legacies and contemporary territorial reforms

† Federal, decentralized, and hybrid models of State organization in Africa: a comparative analysis

† Ethnic, territorial, and clan-regional dimensions of the organization of public authority in African States

† Federalism and decentralization in managing territorial tensions: possibilities, limitations, and consequences

III. Territorial Conflicts and the Transformation of Internal Territorial Organization

† Territorial, ethno-political, and regional conflicts in postcolonial Africa: causes, actors, and dynamics

† Land, natural resources, infrastructure, and political representation as factors in territorial and regional conflicts

† Internal borders and administrative-territorial reforms

† Reforms of internal territorial organization in African States: preconditions, actors, and consequences

† Federalization, decentralization, and autonomization in conditions of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction: possibilities, limitations, and consequences

† Central policies towards peripheral territories and regional demands: negotiations, autonomization, administrative reforms, and centralization

† Changes in the territorial organization of States as an alternative to revising international borders: the African experience.

IV. The Role of International and Regional Institutions in Conflict Resolution and Territorial Governance

† The role of the United Nations, the African Union, and other international organizations and subregional associations in preventing and resolving territorial conflicts in Africa

† Interaction among universal, regional, and subregional mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of territorial conflicts and disputes

† Institutional support for territorial settlements: mediation, demarcation, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction, and cross-border cooperation

† Development institutions and support for decentralization: opportunities, limitations, and risks of external involvement in territorial-governance reforms.

11 November 2026. International Law School, MGIMO University,
Moscow

Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“Federalism and the Islamic World”

Archons:

Aliasker Mamedov

Counsellor of Justice, 3rd Class, researcher

Sofya Mikhailova

student at the International Law School,
MGIMO University of the MFA of the Russian
Federation



This session is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of approaches to the territorial organization of multiethnic, multiconfessional, and multi-tribal States in Sharia, classical and contemporary Islamic political and legal thought. Its focus is the fundamental tension between the Qur'anic ideal of a unified *ummah* (Qur'an 49:10 and 49:13) and the centuries-long political reality of fragmentation, which has generated a rich but conceptually underexplored tradition of decentralization. On the basis of which texts and legal mechanisms did jurists (*fuqaha*) and statesmen legitimize or limit multiple centers of power, regional autonomy, and the vertical division of competences? How do these doctrinal constructions relate to contemporary concepts of federalism, subsidiarity, and consociational democracy?

The discussion will trace the development of views across the full spectrum of Islamic movements and schools of thought:

from Sunni jurists of the classical period, Shi'a thinkers, and Ibadis to Quranists, Jadidists, and reformers of the nineteenth through twenty-first centuries;

and from the "Constitution of Medina" and the systematic works of al-Mawardi – *The Ordinances of Government* – Ibn Taymiyyah's doctrine of multiple imams, and Ibn Khaldun's theory of *'asabiyyah*, to the Ottoman millet system, Ruhollah Khomeini's doctrine of *wilayat al-faqih*, Rashid Rida's "spiritual caliphate", Ali Abd al-Raziq's ideas on the compatibility of Islam and secular government, and Muhammad Iqbal's project of a federation of Muslim provinces in India.

Contemporary and historical examples of success and failure will serve as a laboratory for analysis. We invite participants to examine, through the dual lens of constitutional law and Sharia legitimacy, the following key cases:

- existing federations and quasi-federations: the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia;
- non-Muslim federations with Muslim populations: Russia, India, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Nigeria;
- former federal or confederal projects: the United Arab Republic (Egypt and Syria), the Arab Federation (Iraq and Jordan), the Federation of South Arabia, and Senegambia;
- unitarism in a compound society: Türkiye, Iran, and Afghanistan.

We envisage a multidisciplinary dialogue among scholars of Islam, comparative-law scholars, historians, specialists in public finance, and political

philosophers. Papers based on primary sources and introducing fatwas and writings on State organization that are little known to a wider audience are particularly welcome.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † "Tribes and Nations" in the Qur'an and Sunnah: the egalitarianism of the ummah versus *'asabiyyah* as a challenge to unity
- † Political pluralism in the works of Ibn Taymiyyah: the doctrinal admissibility of multiple imams and its limits
- † *'Asabiyyah* and cyclical decentralization in Ibn Khaldun's *Muqaddimah*: lessons for contemporary multiethnic federations
- † The Ottoman millet system
- † Shi'a *fiqh* and territorial decentralization: from the "Hidden Imam" to wilayat *al-faqih* – is there a place for federalism?
- † The Ibadi political tradition and the elective principle of the imamate: is a confederal community of Ibadi communities possible?
- † Rashid Rida and the project of a "spiritual caliphate": a confederal structure as a means of preserving Islamic unity in the age of nation-States
- † Ali Abd al-Raziq's *Islam and the Foundations of Governance*: the thesis of the secular State and its implications for the theory of Islamic federalism
- † Debates on *adem-i merkeziyet* (decentralization) in the late Ottoman Parliament: Islamic arguments for and against unitarism
- † From Iqbal's federal idea (1930) to the Lahore Resolution (1940): the evolution of the project of Muslim statehood in South Asia
- † Fathi Osman's concept of "Islamic democracy" and the principle of subsidiarity as an integral component of *shura*
- † Zakat in a federal State: centralized collection in the bayt al-mal or provincial tax autonomy? A comparative analysis of fatwas and legislation
- † Waqfs in the vertical separation of powers
- † The issue of *hudud* in a multi-level legal system: may criminal-Sharia norms differ among constituent units of a single Islamic State?
- † Fiscal federalism and the principle of *maslahah* ("public interest" or "public benefit")
- † The right to secession from the perspective of *fiqh* : *baghy* (rebellion) versus *zulm* (oppression) – in search of criteria for legitimate withdrawal from a federation

- † Sharia courts in a federal judicial system: vertical judicial hierarchy and the issue of uniformity of interpretation
- † Wael Hallaq's *The Impossible State* and federalist solutions
- † The imposition of European colonial federal structures on Islamic political realities—British India and French West Africa: a clash of two legal cultures
- † Pan-Arabism in the twenty-first century: prospects and development
- † Assessing the prospects for the convergence of Islamic concepts of statehood within non-Islamic federal systems
- † Case studies of particular federal States in the Islamic world – Pakistan, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, and others: general and specific issues
- † Questions concerning the legal status of Muslim communities in non-Islamic States: Russia, India, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, the Central Asian republics, Ethiopia, Thailand, the Philippines, and others.

13 November 2026. Faculty of Law, Saint Petersburg State University,
Saint Petersburg

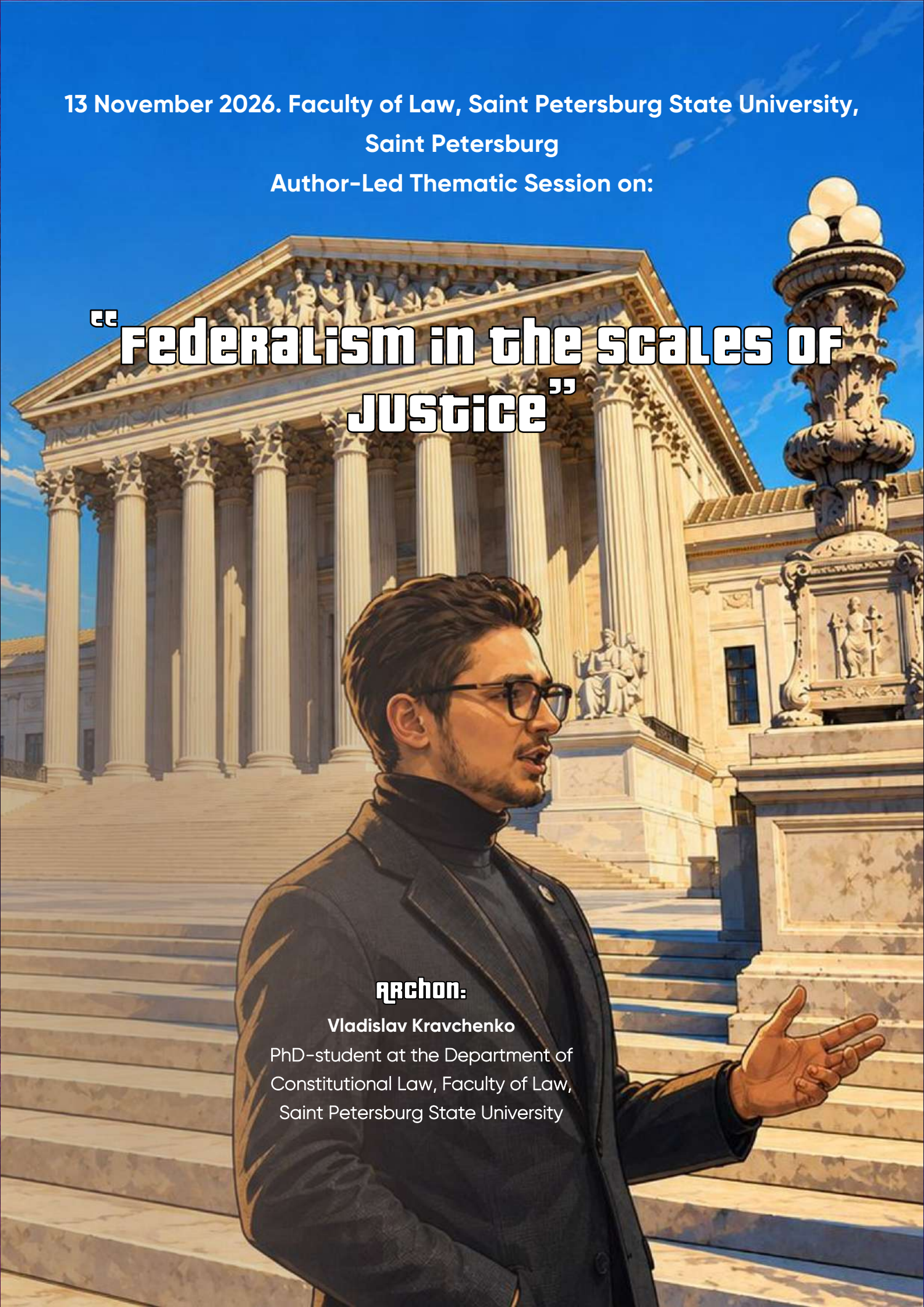
Author-Led Thematic Session on:

“Federalism in the scales of Justice”

Archon:

Vladislav Kravchenko

PhD-student at the Department of
Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law,
Saint Petersburg State University



When federalism is discussed, attention is often focused on the allocation of competences among territorial levels of public authority, fiscal relations, and other issues connected primarily with the organization of the executive branch. Although some scholarship considers the mutual influence of the judiciary and federalism, this relationship is frequently overlooked, as if courts and federalism were not directly connected. Is this really the case? Certainly not.

In this session, we propose looking at federalism from an unconventional perspective: that of the judicial system. The judiciary is directly affected by the federal structure of a State: by the existence of two or more systems of courts, the specific application of legal norms of different levels and the resolution of conflicts between them, and particular categories of disputes arising among public-law entities and their bodies. Like all other public authorities, judicial bodies cannot be isolated from the characteristics resulting from the federal nature of a particular State. But what are these characteristics, and how deeply do they affect the judiciary and the administration of justice?

At the same time, courts themselves exert a significant influence on the federal framework. The case law of higher courts, especially constitutional courts, is particularly important: it determines the key principles of federalism in a given State and either consolidates or, conversely, removes particular institutions of federal relations. In some countries, it is judicial practice that has shaped federalism as a constitutional principle influencing the entire organization of the State and has defined its essential features. In addition, certain changes in federal arrangements—both in Russia and in other States—have resulted from attempts by higher courts to determine the place of federalism within the broader system of constitutional principles without undermining other constitutional provisions.

The role of ordinary courts should not be overlooked either. They deal with a variety of disputes between public authorities concerning their competences. Such practice may improve relations among levels of government, but it may also increase tensions and distort existing legal institutions. Most often, current trends in judicial practice—both in higher and lower courts—first, make the problems of legal regulation in federal relations especially visible and, second, offer various means of resolving them that may be adopted to further develop federalism. The significance of judicial practice therefore cannot be overstated and warrants independent examination.

In light of the above, participants are invited to submit papers on the suggested topics below. Both analyses of Russian legal developments and

comparative-law studies are welcome. In any event, the list is not exhaustive, and other papers consistent with the subject of the session may also be submitted.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † Features of the organization of the judicial system in a federal State
- † A two-tier court system: necessity or discretion?
- † The allocation of competence among levels of public authority in matters of procedural legislation
- † The specific features of resolving disputes arising in federal relations
- † Disputes over competence: subject matter of judicial activity and procedural features
- † The constitutionalization of federalism in the practice of higher courts
- † Resolving conflicts between federalism and other constitutional principles
- † Judicial review of normative acts in federal relations: key problems and ways of addressing them
- † Current issues in resolving ordinary disputes involving public-law entities
- † Constitutional reform of the organization of public authority through the eyes of the courts: interim results and proposals
- † The influence of international courts and similar institutions on federal and integration relations.

14 November 2026. House of the Lawyer (Baron A. F. Kelch
Mansion), Saint Petersburg

Plenary Session on:

“FEDERALISM AND SOCIAL CONFLICTS”. CONFERENCE CLOSING

ARCHON:

Vadim Korolkov

PhD in Law, Assistant Professor at the
Department of Constitutional and
Municipal Law, Faculty of Law,
Lomonosov Moscow State University

Traditionally, federalism has been understood as pursuing “unity in diversity,” while diversity of interests inevitably gives rise to conflict. Institutional, political, ethnic, economic, religious, and other social conflicts constitute a latent but highly important sphere of federalism’s influence. The relationship between social conflicts and federalism is twofold: federal arrangements may be established in order to end existing conflicts, but they may also themselves cause existing tensions to persist or new contradictions to arise. A synthesis of global experience in this area is particularly interesting and important for contemporary social sciences.

Suggested topics for discussion (possible paper topics):

- † Manifestations of social conflicts in federal systems
- † Federalism as a means of resolving conflicts in complex societies
- † Conflicts between the Federation and its constituent units
- † Conflicts among constituent units
- † Normative, institutional, and non-institutional means of overcoming tensions in federal systems
- † “The Apple of Discord”: federalism as a factor exacerbating social conflicts
- † The expansion of federal systems as a cause of social conflicts and a means of resolving them.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of applications: **by 25 October 2026.**

Notification of selection results: **by 29 October 2026.**

Submission of final paper texts: **by 1 February 2027.**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To participate in the Conference "Federalism in Contemporary Public Law," please register on the "Lomonosov" portal. Through your personal account, you will be able to submit an application for participation and upload your research paper. Detailed instructions on creating a personal account and registering are available through the **Conference's official Telegram and VK communities.**

Participants wishing to deliver a paper should attach to their application a research-paper text file prepared in accordance with the requirements below. A research paper may be submitted either as **a completed article** or as **an extended paper outline**; both may be developed into a full article by **1 February 2027**. Research papers whose authors consent to publication and provide the necessary personal data at the time of registration will be published in the Conference proceedings after successful completion of the selection process.

Registration form on the "Lomonosov" portal:
<https://confhub.ru/eng/event/10637/>

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Content Requirements:

† The paper must not have been previously published and must demonstrate scholarly novelty.

† The paper must correspond to the Conference theme and contain elements of scholarly novelty or an independent research result, rather than merely a descriptive review of the material.

† The paper must formulate a research problem or question, the objective of the research, the principal elements of the author's argument, and conclusions.

† The principal conclusions must be substantiated and correspond to the stated research objective.

† The research must be based on relevant scholarly publications and, where applicable, on primary legal sources.

† The author is responsible for the accuracy of the information provided, the accuracy of citations, and the correctness of bibliographic details and translations.

† The Organizing Committee reserves the right to return papers that do not comply with these requirements to the author for revision or to reject them altogether.

Formatting Requirements:

† File format: Microsoft Office Word

† The paper must include a title, information about the author or authors, an e-mail address, an abstract of 100–150 words, and five to eight keywords, in both Russian and English.

† Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

- † Line spacing: single
- † Bibliographic references in English-language research papers must follow the **Vancouver citation style**. Footnotes must be placed at the bottom of each page and numbered consecutively throughout the paper.
- † Quotations, borrowed propositions, factual information, and statistical data must be accompanied by references to their sources.
- † References are mandatory when mentioning or analysing normative legal acts, international treaties, judicial decisions, and documents of international organizations.
- † Direct quotations must include a reference to the specific page or paragraph.
- † Length of paper: 12,000–60,000 characters, including spaces
- † Length of an extended paper outline: at least 3,000 characters
- † Originality: at least 70%

PLEASE NOTE!

In the event of non-compliance with the established rules—for example, incomplete author information or exceeding the maximum permitted paper length—the Organizing Committee may **REFUSE** participation in the Conference.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right not to provide reasons for refusing to accept papers. Co-authorship is permitted, but a paper may have no more than four authors. Where a paper has multiple authors, each author must submit an individual application for participation in the Conference through the electronic registration form.

Registration for one of the Conference sessions grants access to all Conference sessions held at the same venue. To attend all Conference sessions, it is sufficient to register for one session at each venue. Authors and co-authors who have successfully registered are not required to deliver a presentation.

Participation in the Conference is free of charge.

Expenses relating to travel to Moscow and Saint Petersburg, accommodation, and meals are to be reimbursed by the sending institution.

At the request of an in-person participant, the Organizing Committee may issue a personalized invitation to the Conference. This invitation may be required to obtain reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with the procedures of the sending institution.

Please note that the Organizing Committee does not assist with booking accommodation.

CONFERENCE VENUES IN MOSCOW



2–5 November: The Conference will take place at **Lomonosov Moscow State University**, at: 1 Leninskie Gory, Building 13, Fourth Academic Building, Moscow (Universitet metro station). Entry to the University campus is STRICTLY by invitation and upon presentation of a passport.



6–7 November: The Conference will take place at **Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL)**, at: 9 Sadovaya-Kudrinskaya Street, Moscow (Barrikadnaya and Krasnopresnenskaya metro stations). Entry to the University campus is STRICTLY by invitation and upon presentation of a passport.



9–11 November: The Conference will take place at **MGIMO University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation**, at: 76 Vernadskogo Avenue, Building V, Moscow (Prospekt Vernadskogo metro station). Entry to the University campus is STRICTLY by invitation and upon presentation of a passport.

CONFERENCE VENUES IN SAINT PETERSBURG



13 November: The Conference will take place at **Saint Petersburg State University**, at: 7, 22nd Line of Vasilievsky Island, Saint Petersburg (Vasileostrovskaya metro station). Entry to the University campus is STRICTLY by invitation and upon presentation of a passport.



14 November: The Conference will take place at **House of the Lawyer (Baron A. F. Kelch Mansion)**, at: 28 Chaikovskogo Street, Saint Petersburg (Chernyshevskaya metro station). Entry to the House of the Lawyer is STRICTLY by invitation and upon presentation of a passport.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Organizing Committee of the Conference is located at:

1 Leninskie Gory, Building 13, Moscow

E-mail: federalist.club@gmail.com

Telegram channel: https://t.me/federalist_club

VK community: https://vk.com/fspp_info

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkOFaY9uKujW2hD-P1wiiJw>

For general questions, please contact the Co-Chairs of the Conference Organizing Committee.

For all matters concerning the organization of your session, please contact the Session Coordinators; their contact details will be published through our information channels.

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