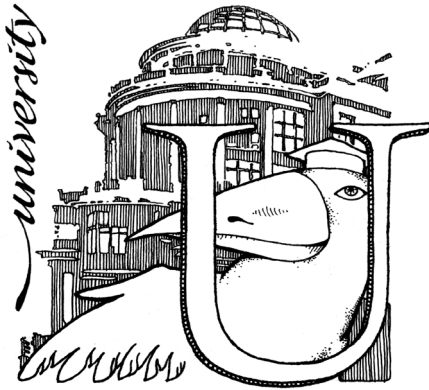


"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

— John Lennon



iversity is more than just its educational programmes. It has the capacity to bring added value to the community, both local and global. Open lectures, workshops, the popularization of science, the transformation of urban environment around the campus – all of this changes the relations between the university and the outside world, making the former more than just a closed off space of learning. In this issue, we would like to present how HSE sees its mission of being a university open to the public. We'll explore both the local focus, through open events held by Graduate School of Urbanism and public lectures in English within HSE Talks projects, as well as a wider outreach through Summer University programme. Of course, we could not go without mentioning the April Conference, an annual research event of great scale and importance for HSE, which became a platform for discussion of the latest socio-economic research not only nation-wide, but also internationally. Traditionally, we announce the upcoming visits of international scholars, supported by institutional funding, as well as the open call for organizing Teaching Excellence workshops with international colleagues.

We hope that this issue will inspire you to seek out more of what the university can offer and to explore the opportunities through which to engage more with the environment around it.

Yulia Grinkevich
Director of Internationalisation

Shaping the Urban Environment through Public Discussions

Vysokovsky Graduate School of Urbanism at HSE is regularly holding events and activities open to the general public. Deputy Dean **Vera Leonova** told *The HSE Look* about the goals of such open projects, benefits of collaborations and future plans of the school.

Why did the School decide to hold regular events open to the public?

The Graduate School of Urbanism was set up in 2011, and during the first years the focus was mainly on the educational programme and research. In 2015 we felt

ready to reach out to a wider audience. We firmly believe in the HSE's principle 'University Open to the City' and decided to follow it. At first, our open lectures were organised ad hoc, whenever an interesting speaker was visiting, but in 2016 we took a more conscious approach and designed our own cycle of public events called 'Open University'.

Urban issues are widely discussed at the moment, which is one of the reasons why our public programme is so popular. However, such popularity brings about certain misconceptions. Many associate the urban agenda exclusively with place-making and top-down urban initiatives. Our mission is to show how diverse and complex the urban context is, and promote a truly professional debate about the city.

Naturally, we have pragmatic considerations – through our public programme we want to draw attention to the School and get more prospective students. Nevertheless, our major intention is humanistic: we believe that the University should be open, both in terms of ideas and in terms of physical space. We want to contribute to knowledge dissemination and help nurture a new generation of active citizens in Russia.

What are the types of events you organise?

We have a variety of formats, including public lectures, roundtable discussions, 'urban breakfasts' and movie screenings. In 2016 we held over 70 events in total. Most of them took place at Dostoyevsky library, our partner venue. When we organised our first events, we wanted to find a place where registration for an event would not be required. Unfortunately, HSE premises would not suit, while the library was a perfect match. It is a contemporary public space at Chistoprudnyi boulevard within a 5-minute walk from the Graduate School of Urbanism, and its director was very enthusiastic about our initiative. We agreed to hold lectures and discussions every Wednesday at 8.30pm, so that people can come after work. The topics range from financing infrastructural projects and land regulation to participatory planning and urban activism. The library has wide windows facing the boulevard, and passersby who are interested in what is happening inside may drop in. We promote the events through our social media,

and there is a web streaming for those who cannot join us in person. Later the videos are posted on YouTube, and we already have over 13,000 hits for 35 videos.

Urban breakfasts are more interactive and informal. We invite a prominent speaker who shares his/her thoughts with us over a cup of coffee followed by a vivid discussion. Naturally, fewer people can attend in the morning, which results in a very cozy and friendly atmosphere. Last year we held a series of breakfast discussions dedicated to street art and artistic interventions. The reading groups also proved to be successful. We select a short excerpt (around 10-20 pages) among the classics in the literature of cities – Walter Benjamin, Louis Wirth, Jane Jacobs – and send it out to the registered participants. During breakfast, we provide some context about the author's work and invite the participants to share their thoughts on the reading of the day.

Finally, there are movie screenings, which we all love. Last summer we partnered with the Bauman Garden park and Goethe Institute to show German movies on a variety of urban subjects, such as architecture, street photographers, life in Berlin, etc. The screenings took place in the open air and were very popular both among our core audience and passersby who were just having a stroll in the park. We certainly plan to continue this year, and are already working on the programme.

Are there any other partners with whom you organize events?

We partner a lot with cultural centers, such as Goethe Institute and British Council, and embassies. Such partnerships broaden our networking opportunities and help bring international experts to Russia. It is incredible how much can be achieved through partnerships and good will. Each party contributes the resources they already have: a venue, expertise, or PR, and we all benefit from cumulative results. With each partnership come new ideas and projects: for example, a lecture that we organised together with the Polish Cultural Center resulted in a series of events on Polish cities including a conference, a newspaper publication and an exhibition. We realised how much we have in

common with Poland due to the decades of planned economy, and that we can learn a lot from the Polish experience.

Also we organize extracurricular activities for students in partnerships with Russian and international institutions. For example, together with the Civic Initiatives Committee we have recently held a student workshop dedicated to what everyday urban life would look like in 2035. Last year the Chief Architect of Moscow Sergey Kuznetsov invited us to do a student workshop for the Venice Biennale, and as a result, 12 students went to Venice to present their works. This year we are discussing a number of workshops with international schools, such as IAAC in Barcelona and the School of Architectural Association in London. They will not be limited to GSU students and provide an excellent opportunity for exchange and networking.

In the end of 2016 the Graduate School of Urbanism opened the Shukhov Lab in the main HSE building on Myasnitskaya street.

How does it fit into your work?

What is the idea behind the Lab and how does it work?

The Shukhov Lab is our new educational and public space that aims to foster innovation in urban planning and management through the use of IT and digital technologies. It is equipped with latest prototyping equipment, such as 3D printers, engravers, laser cutters, etc. We conceived the idea in the vein of FabLabs, which are growing in popularity and spreading throughout the world. FabLabs are workshop-like spaces in which students and citizens can produce things, make prototypes and experiment. We got a green light from the Rector and transformed a former standard classroom into a modern Lab.

The Shukhov Lab will soon become home to our new Master's programme 'City and Technology' which launches in September 2017. At the same time, it will continue to serve as a public space where we host lectures, discussions, and workshops devoted to technological developments in the city.

This new focus on technologies allows us to develop a wider and a more global urbanist agenda. Being a

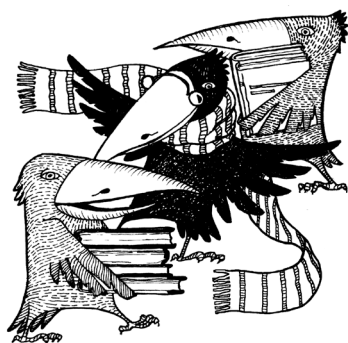
young academic establishment founded in 2011, the School's initial focus was primarily on Russian urban regulations and practices. Considerable efforts are now being made to broaden the educational programme and develop a more global perspective on urbanism. Last year we launched our first international master's programme, Advanced Urban Design, together with Strelka Institute, and now Shukhov Lab is a natural continuation of our strive to internationalise.

There is an open call for resident fellows at the Lab - is it a common practice in other institutes and schools that do urban studies?

Having resident fellows at the Lab means that we get to know more people interested in prototyping for the urban environment. The best international universities now have their own fab labs, and we are trying to keep up. We want the Shukhov Lab to become a platform that unites young people and researchers working on technological solutions for future cities. We cooperate with HSE Innovation Centre and external institutions that support start-ups and young researchers. Many people and organisations contact us with collaboration proposals, and we are at this stage building the network. For example, Moscow City IT department has recently expressed interest in doing projects together and involving our students in their urban projects as an integral part of the curriculum.

Why is the Lab named after Shukhov?

We had several ideas and were trying to choose among them when the School Dean, Professor Alexei Novikov, told us that the famous engineer and architect Vladimir Shukhov worked in the Myasnitskaya 20 building since the 1880s. And everything clicked into place: Shukhov's name stands for the values we want to promote: innovation, technological breakthroughs, engineering genius, it helps maintain the history of the place, and besides, we are in good relations with Shukhov's great-grandson! So, in hindsight, it seems impossible that we could even consider any other options.



Summer University: a Gateway to HSE and Russia

In 2014 HSE launched its first Summer University aimed at international students – since then the number of participants and courses as well as their diversity grew greatly. The Summer University opens its doors to the world on June 20, 2017, and **Oksana Chernenko**, Director for Educational Innovations and of the Summer University programme, and **Anna Mezentseva**, manager of the Summer University programme, talked to *The HSE Look* about the programme and how it helps to promote HSE and Russia as study destinations globally.

What is summer university? How does it differ from summer schools?

There are many features which HSE summer schools and summer university have in common: students can get ECTS credits, the courses are taught in English, and both have international participants from different countries. However, while for summer schools international students are often an additional feature, for Summer University they are at its core. Other important differences include the duration of the programme: summer schools rarely exceed 2-3 weeks, and our Summer University (SU) courses run from June 20 to August 20. As far as the location is concerned, the majority of SU's programme is held in Moscow, with the possibility to study at St. Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod campuses as well, while summer schools are usually held outside campus or outside Russia entirely.

The most crucial feature of SU is that we strive to offer a multidisciplinary educational experience at HSE, which reflects the diversity and richness of knowledge of the whole university.

What do you do to showcase the HSE as a whole?

Our courses represent the majority of faculties - international relations, politics, history, mathematics, computer science, economics, management – and are taught by the leading faculty members, with both Russian and international degrees, who have experience of studying and doing research abroad. This way the students can see that HSE is a globally-oriented university, both in terms of course content and its academic staff. We offer courses in three out of four HSE campuses and do our best to let the participants

discover more about the educational programme which interests them, about HSE in general, about the city and the country. The courses are scheduled in a way which allows the students to study at two or even three campuses – we had such precedents.

In addition to the main curriculum the students can study the Russian language, and it is a very popular option. Students typically have three types of motivation for choosing the language course: they came to Russia for a short time only and want to feel more comfortable during their stay in the city; they major in Russian Studies back at the home university or they want to apply for a graduate two-year programme at HSE and want to feel more confident in their daily and professional communication.

Summer University is held in Russia – how much is it an attraction factor for students?

The applications show that whole students emphasize the focus on the academic content of SU, there is a great interest in Russia – a country they heard so much about and never saw for themselves. Summer University is a good 'test drive' option for students and for their international offices at home institutions. To give an example, we had a visiting scholar from a partner university who happened to attend some of SU lectures, and he was impressed and brought a whole group of students next year.

We are also a short-term way to check that Moscow is a good destination before committing to an exchange semester here or taking a degree programme. The students get to 'taste' Russia and HSE – and some of them decide to stay with us. Most of the students keep in touch via our Facebook group, actively communicating

with each other and staying engaged in the news about new developments at HSE and in Russian higher education.

How do the students find you?

We've got two main channels of student recruitment. Around half of our summer participants are freemovers, and the rest comes from universities with which we have institutional contracts. We have to be universally appealing while taking into account that channels of recruitment and modes of work are essentially different. We understand very well that they are both equally important to us. Facebook and other social networks, international education fairs – all of these tools are helpful. One of the most effective channels remains the word of mouth, both from other students and from professors.

Our institutional partners are a great source of students, but we also have agreements for the participation in Summer University only. Many universities have study abroad requirements and look for quality programmes which they can recommend to students. Sometimes they include an obligatory monthly exchange for undergraduate students, sometimes it's up to 6 months abroad, and the universities support their students in this all the way through.

Some universities select the courses institutionally for their students, others give them a choice among everything we offer. One of our partnership success stories is the relationship with Seoul National University. They've been sending us students for three years already, and we hope they will for many more to come. Their program is called SNU in Moscow, and they have similar ones in Beijing, Tokyo, Paris, Berlin and Madrid. They commission the curriculum they want their students to get because their students get assignments from SNU and make presentations of their projects using our lecture materials and consulting our supervising professors. We like to invite all the students to their exploratory sessions because they are really interesting. There was one presentation that won everyone over last year. It was about Chekhov's literary heritage, and they visited Chekhov's grave at the Novo-Dyevitchiye cemetery. Everything they did was so full of sincere interest in Russian literature, they were really considerate and knowledgeable.

On the other hand, a different university from South Korea, Seoul National University of Science and

Technology (SeoulTech), allows its student to make their own choice from the list of the courses we have at the moment.

How do the freemovers differ from the students who arrive via their universities?

We never know which connections will bring us the next student. Some channels are more obvious, of course, for example, the official websites of partner universities or work with the institutional partners, like DAAD. They award scholarships for student mobility, and they have financial incentives to send students to specific universities with an assured level of quality and which match their priorities, and that includes us.

Sometimes one student can bring a group, so to speak, and later a whole university for us to "befriend" and partner with. Some students who initially came as a part of a university group return later on as freemovers and take on extra courses, spending more time with us. It's hard to say which recruitment channel works best for the freemovers, though we are analyzing their effectiveness as much as we can. We even have a question about it in our application form: "How did you find out about us?", but usually, the answers are all over the place. Our records and experience show that the good old word of mouth and buzz marketing remain the most effective ways.

We managed to spread the word about Summer University quite successfully through Coursera's mailing list of the people who took HSE courses this year - and witnessed a rise of interest in our computer science curriculum at SU. But it often happens that the students come because a professor advised them to, or one of our students who moved abroad, or an exchange student who studied here, or maybe through a roommate, or even a Facebook friend.

In a way, it does not matter where the freemovers come from, far more important is the experience they have here. Our long-term goal is to recruit full degree students, perhaps also PhD students. Several students stayed on for an academic exchange and some enrolled for a Master's degree. Though such cases are few yet, I believe they will snowball with each year.

Is there a chance for you to benefit from other university's experience?

We are trying to put ourselves out there and join the professional community. There are international

academic mobility offices in almost every university, so a lot can be discussed with colleagues. We are not just passive learners, though, but also contribute our experience to the discussion. There are professional conferences, like the one held annually by European Association for International Education (EAIE), and I am a member and a resource person for a Summer Schools Expert Committee. We may not be pioneers

here, but we can both offer our unique expertise and learn from others. It's also good publicity for HSE and our Summer University. Another example of an international venue is QS Summer School Summit, and we are the programme committee members. It's a huge opportunity for us to promote the university and establish new partnerships.



April Conference: Overview of 18 years

HSE bulletin *Okna Rosta* took an interview with Professor **Andrei Yakovlev**, Director of the HSE Institute for Industrial and Market Studies and member of the Programme Committee of the April Conference on Economic and Social Development, about the origins of the conference and how it changed and expanded over the years. *The HSE Look* is glad to present the summarized translation of the interview to its readers.

Launching a new conference

The idea of the conference was proposed by Professor Evgeny G. Yasin, HSE Academic Supervisor, after he resigned from his position in the government and fully focused on HSE in 1998. The preparations took us around a year and in 2000 the first April Conference was held. Its first round resembled a Faculty-level conference in scale, being only 1 day long and having just 4 different sessions. The major goal at the start was to create a platform for leading Russian and international scholars who were focused on Russia in their research and expertise. In later years the thematic field expanded to include also the challenges faced by developing countries and transitional economies of the world.

This broader scope was beneficial from two points of view. Firstly, it was an additional argument for our cooperation with the World Bank - each year they support the participation of seven or eight speakers from Eastern Europe and from developing countries with their travel grants. Secondly, it allows us to focus on comparative studies and to attract the researchers who are interested not only in Russia, but who conduct comparative studies of developing economies.

Geography

From the very beginning, we were focused on cooperation with international colleagues, and initially

these were primarily the experts from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Since then the number of internationally relevant sessions and international colleagues has been growing steadily. In recent years, out of about 500 reports that are presented at the conference, around 100 are done by international speakers. The geography of the participants is very wide: Eastern Europe, Germany, the USA, Japan, China, Australia. We also invite leading researchers and experts as honorary speakers. This gives an opportunity for the audience to get to know leading international scientists, and at the same time these scholars learn more about research at HSE and other prominent academic institutions. Thanks to the April conference, leading Western experts in economics, political science, and sociology have a much deeper understanding of Russia.

Colleagues

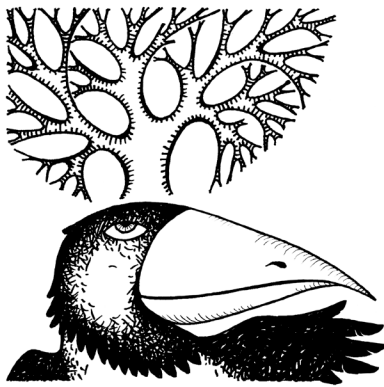
We did our best to integrate colleagues from other key centres on economic and social research, both as the members of the Program Committee and as the heads of sessions and panels. These are, for example, the Russian Economic School (NES), the Center for Economic and Financial Research and Development, the Economic Expert Group. We've also been cooperating for a long time with the Association of Independent Economic Analysis Centers, which unites practically all leading think-tanks on economic policy.

Focus on research

Over time, the academic component of the conference expanded, reflecting that the Higher School of Economics grew in size and increased the diversity of its research agenda. Quite quickly, by the middle of the 2000s, the April conference became a widely popular academic event, and every year almost all Russian researchers of economics and social sciences gathered there to present the new ideas. It became a popular platform for discussing new papers with Russian and international colleagues to get feedback before presenting the idea abroad.

Initially emphasis was placed on applied research and expert discussions. While they do remain relevant, the April Conference is also known as a platform for presenting results of fundamental research.

The April Conference of 2017 is over, and its highlights can be viewed on the HSE website. The call for papers for the next year is not too far away – and if you plan to attend as a speaker, make sure to plan ahead and submit the application this fall in early November. The HSE Look will keep the readers updated on the relevant deadlines.



Bringing Research to the City

Within its “University Open to the City” project HSE holds many different lectures and discussions at various city venues, such as Moscow museums and Cultural Centre ZIL. Following the successful experience of HSE Open Talks lectures at HSE Day in September for the last three years (see *The HSE Look October 2015, September 2014*), the university launched a regular English-speaking series of public lectures HSE Talks, held at a coworking café. From February to April five speakers from the Faculty of Social Sciences gave their public talks, and *The HSE Look* talked to one of them, Assistant Professor **Ekim Arbatli**, to learn more about the impressions from participation in the project.

Why did you decide to participate in HSE Talks?

I learned through our email list that the faculty was looking for volunteers, and I thought it was a good opportunity. I like talking to the public in general - it is a different atmosphere than presenting research in academic venues. With colleagues we mainly focus on the theoretical aspects of our work. Most of the “real” political stuff gets lost in the process. Whereas if you try to explain something to the public, you need to focus on the factual information, and that is the kind of details that I like. It makes me think differently about what I do.

Does it help you to reframe your research?

It does, actually, I got a couple of very interesting questions. I already started thinking about one of them: I was asked whether female or male presidents are more likely to get a coup attempt. And I have no idea, and I do not know of any research that explores it - but it seems like a very interesting question. It could go both ways:

it could be that women get fewer coup attempts because they are not considered strong or resilient enough, that “it’s not worth” a coup. Or it might be they get more coup attempts because they are thought to be weak. I am trying to see if there is a way and enough data to find out more.

Does it differ from giving a lecture to the students? Do you get asked the same questions?

People who come to the public talks are more interested in a particular topic, while a student might be more interested in a different part of the course. The audience was younger than I expected. I was very pleasantly surprised that so many people knew details of the coup attempt in Turkey I was describing. They were even following the ‘gossip’ or speculation part of the story, which is pretty deep detail. I got a lot of really good questions - after the talk ended, I was crowded by people willing to know even more for about half an hour.

Why do you think such public talks are interesting to organize for the Faculty of Social Science and for HSE as a whole?

For one thing, I think it is an issue of social responsibility. We should be more open to the public. I have my doubts about keeping research behind closed doors, because most of the time if you want to read a published article, it is not free, and most people cannot pay for it. On that front, we should make research more available to everyone. Secondly, it also increases the visibility of HSE. People look at the building and probably wonder what are the professors doing inside, so such events give them a clue.

Do you think you would like to give another talk?

Probably in a year or so, once I have fresh ideas. Being Turkish and a political scientist interested in military

coups means pushing yourself to talk about Turkey as an interesting case unfolding right before our eyes. Things change fast, so probably next year I will do a follow-up.

What topics would you be interested in learning more about in the public talk format?

My interests are close to economics and sociology, so I do follow their literature. I would like to hear more about protests and social movements in general - one of my colleagues is giving a talk on that soon. But outside that - I guess I would be interested in hearing more about Big Data. It is very much outside of what I do these days but I'd love to learn how different sciences are using Big Data nowadays.

Visiting Scholars at HSE: Call for Funding Open



The HSE Look is happy to promote **HSE Teaching Excellence programme** which gives an opportunity to organize workshops for HSE teachers with colleagues with extensive teaching experience from universities abroad. Such visits are supported by institutional funding through applications made by academic programmes.

The **call for applications** from HSE degree programmes for HSE Teaching Excellence visits is **open until June 1, 2017**. If you are interested in this programme and would like to know details on how to submit a proposal, please, consult your department or <https://visiting scholar.hse.ru/en/>.

The following visits are scheduled for early May and June. For more details, please, contact the host departments or visiting scholar@hse.ru.

Brunet Serge, Full Professor at Paul Valéry - Montpellier III University

Host department at HSE: The School of History, Faculty of Humanities

Dates: May 07 - 28, 2017

Leigh Elysebeth, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, University of Technology, Sydney – Australia

Host department at HSE: Institute of Education

Dates: May 15 - 19, 2017

Salciuviene Laura, Lecturer at the Department of Marketing, Lancaster University Management School

Host department at HSE: The School of Economics and

Management (St. Petersburg)

Dates: May 16 - 31, 2017

Bondarouk Tatiana, Professor at Faculty of Behavioral, Management and Social Sciences, University of Twente

Host programme at HSE: Master's programme 'Human Resource Management'

Dates: May 23 - 27, 2017

Guelton Sonia, Research Fellow at Lab'Urba: center for urban policies and territorial development

Host programme at HSE: Master's programme 'Urban Development and Spatial Planning'

Dates: June 12 - 23, 2017