

# Welcome Aboard!

Every autumn, we welcome new internationally recruited staff members, and this year is no exception. We are pleased to introduce our new colleagues – assistant professors and post-doctoral fellows, some of whom renewed their work contracts with HSE University.

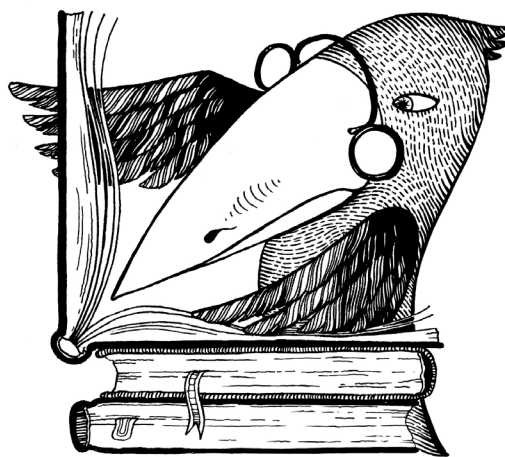
## Tenure-tracks

**Dr. Behrang Kamali Shahdadi** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Theoretical Economics of the Faculty of Economic Sciences. Dr. Kamali received his PhD in Economics at the University of Pennsylvania (USA) in 2016. His research interests cover market design, matching theory, and contract theory. In addition, he has seven years of experience in teaching. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Kamali worked at the Tehran Institute for Advanced Studies.

**Dr. Soubhagya Sahoo** will be joining the Department of Theoretical Economics at the Faculty of Economic Sciences as an Assistant Professor in December 2023. Dr. Sahoo received his PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (India) in 2023. His research interests include experimental economics, behavioural economics, economic development, labour economics, and applied micro-economics. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Sahoo worked at Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment (CECFEE) of the Indian Statistical Institute.

**Dr. Aleksei Pobedonostsev** is an Assistant Professor at the School of Sociology of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Dr. Pobedonostsev received his PhD in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) in 2023. His interests cover comparative political economy, economic development, and historical/comparative sociology. Dr. Pobedonostsev's current research concerns problems of the 'resource curse.'

**Dr. Stefan Gužvica** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of History of the School of Arts and Humanities (St. Petersburg). Dr. Gužvica received his PhD at the University of Regensburg (Germany) in 2022. He has extensive experience working as a lecturer, researcher, organizer of academic events, and writer. Dr. Gužvica's field of research interests include the political and intellectual history of the Balkans and Central Eastern Europe. He focuses on the history of communism in this region in the 20th century, grappling with the relationship between communist revolution, the peasantry, and the national question. He also analyzes various types of theory, both historical and contemporary, in regards to uneven and combined development.



**Dr. Vladimir Volkov** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics of the St. Petersburg School of Economics and Management. He received his PhD at Queensland University of Technology (Australia) in 2015 and worked there as a researcher and lecturer before joining HSE University. Dr. Volkov's research expertise spans across financial econometrics, asset pricing, and market microstructure.

**Dr. Waqas Ahmed** is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Management of HSE University's Nizhny Novgorod Campus. Dr. Ahmed received his PhD at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China) in 2018. His experience includes teaching, consulting, mentoring and finding business and academic solutions in such areas as entrepreneurship, international marketing, international business, business sustainability, and project management.

**Dr. Olga Zolotareva** is an Assistant Professor at the School of Philosophy and Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Humanities. She received her PhD at Princeton University (USA), with her dissertation 'Watching the World: Cinema, Photography, and the Russian Modernist Imagination' in 2023. Dr. Zolotareva's research interests include comparative modernism, theory and reception history of photography and film, and the intersection of ethics and aesthetics. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in The Journal of Modern Literature and Comparative Literature. Furthermore, she is currently working on a book manuscript based on her dissertation.

**Dr. Mikhail Lazarev** is an Assistant Professor at the Big Data and Information Retrieval School of the Faculty of Computer Science. He received his PhD at École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland) in 2019, with his thesis 'Tailored-Potential Semiconductor Quantum Nanostructures Grown in Inverted Pyramids'. Dr. Lazarev's research interests include but are not limited to such fields as material science and applied deep learning.

**Dr. Eriks Varpahovskis** is an Assistant Professor at the School of International Regional Studies of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs. He received his PhD at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea) in 2019. Dr. Varpahovskis's primary research interests include public diplomacy, soft power, politics of transnational higher education and cultural security. His working experience covers a variety of fields, including research, teaching, account management, and market research.

**Dr. Cedric Bernardin** is a Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics. He received his PhD at Paris Dauphine University (France) in 2004. With over 20 years of experience in teaching, Dr. Bernardin applies his research interests in such spheres as scaling limits of

interacting particle systems, non-equilibrium statistical physics and, more recently, analysis of quantum systems.

**Dr. Alexander Usvitskiy** is an Assistant Professor at the International College of Economics and Finance. Dr. Usvitskiy received his PhD degree from Florida State University (USA) in 2020. He has teaching experience both in the USA and Russia. Moreover, Dr. Usvitskiy has research interests in such areas as behavioural (experimental) economics and economic theory.

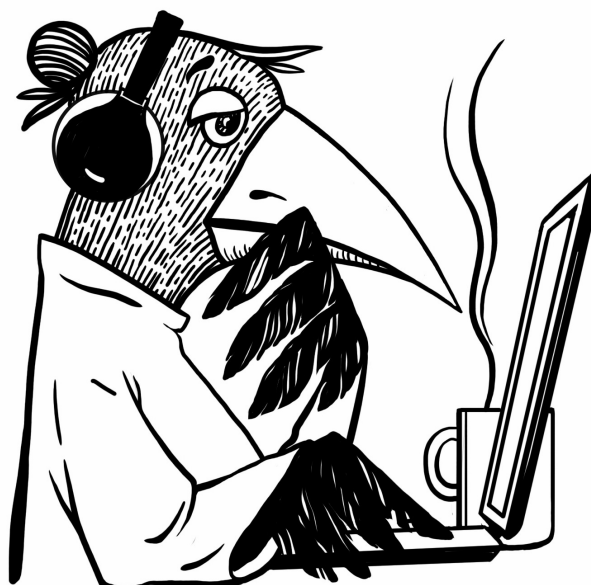
**Dr. Thomas Clement Fernique** is an Assistant Professor at the School of Data Analysis and Artificial Intelligence of the Faculty of Computer Science. He received his PhD at the University of Montpellier 2 (France) in 2007. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Fernique worked 14 years as a researcher in France and organized various academic events in Russia and France. His research interests include discrete geometry and combinatorics.

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## Post-Docs

**Dr. Xingxing Jiang** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of Electronic Engineering of Tikhonov Moscow Institute of Electronics and Mathematics. Dr. Jiang received his PhD at Hunan University (China) in 2021. His research employs quantum physics, advanced molecular simulation techniques, and HPC to study condensed matter physics, chemical reactions and material science. Dr. Jiang is currently working on the first principles and time-dependent density functional theory simulations.

**Dr. Giovanni Pirari** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the International Laboratory for the Study of Russian and European Intellectual Dialogue. Dr. Pirari received his PhD at Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) in 2016. With five working languages (Italian, German, English, French, and Russian), his experience includes teaching philosophy and history, as well languages (Italian and German). His research interests focus on image as the threshold between the visible and the metaphysical intelligible, as well as the role of the imagination as a philosophical cognitive faculty. At present, his studies concern the theory of pictorial representation of space in the Eastern and Western European artistic traditions.



**Dr. Seyedmohammad Seyed Asl** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of International Regional Studies of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs. Dr. Seyed Asl received his PhD at Gazi University (Türkiye) in 2021. His research interests are international

relations, geopolitics, border study, and the Middle East. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Seyedi Asl has written analytical works while at research centres such as the Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM), Iran Turkish Studies Group (ITSG) and Saint Pierre Center for International Security (SPCIS).

**Dr. Dylan Payne Royce** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of International Affairs of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs. Dr. Royce received his PhD at George Washington University (USA) in 2023. His research focuses on the foreign policies of the USA and Russia, especially the effect of universalistic ideology and moralism upon American policy towards Russia/Eurasia.

**Dr. Kadir Uysal** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Laboratory for Studies in Economic Sociology. Dr. Uysal received his PhD at Istanbul Bilgi University (Türkiye), majoring in Political Sciences. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Uysal worked at the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Office in Türkiye, after receiving his Master's in Political Economy from the University of Manchester. His research interests cover the sociology of work. Furthermore, he is particularly interested in the digital platform economy, transformations in higher education and subjectivities at work. Dr. Uysal is currently working to defend his second PhD in Sociology at HSE University.

**Dr. Thomas Delattre** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of History of the Faculty of Humanities. He received his PhD in History and Social Policy at the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy) in 2022 with the thesis 'To Serve Russia – Continuity and Contemporary Practices of Russian Patriotism'. Dr. Delattre's research interests cover Russian patriotism and Czarist involvement in northeast Africa in the late 19th century.

**Dr. Marco Mellina** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of History of the Faculty of Humanities. He received his PhD at University of Bordeaux (France) in 2023. Dr. Mellina's teaching experience at his Alma-mater aligns with his research interests in such fields as Soviet history, history of the Soviet state and law, social and administrative history, and history of French and Italian institutions.

**Dr. Rahul Gupta** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of Electronic Engineering of Tikhonov Moscow Institute of Electronics and Mathematics. Dr. Gupta received his PhD at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (India) in 2021. His experience covers a wide range of activities, including such specializations as research engineer, project associate, instructor, academic event organizer and coordinator, and lecturer. His research interests include the

design and development of RF/microwave passive components, reflecting surfaces, and RF Codesign for and beyond 5G architectures.

**Dr. Cristhian Andres Aguirre Tellez** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Quantum Metamaterials of Tikhonov Moscow Institute of Electronics and Mathematics. Dr. Aguirre received his PhD in Physics at the Federal University of Mato Grosso (Brazil) in 2020. His interests cover matter condensed physics, numerical analysis and superconductivity in Ginzburg-Landau theory, with a particular focus on multi/band, topological, multi/compound superconductor systems and Ab-initio analysis of multi/bands materials.

**Dr. Muhammad Zubair** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Cognition & Decision Making of the Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience. He received his PhD at the School of Management of Zhejiang University (China) in 2021. Dr. Zubair's research interests include neuromarketing, brand management, consumer behaviour and digital advertising in the context of green marketing. Before joining HSE University, he taught various courses like "Marketing and Research Methods", relying on real-life experience, current cases and projects.

**Dr. Evgeniia Kiseleva** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Laboratory for Economics of Innovation. She received her PhD from the Department of Business of the University of Perugia. Her experience includes project-management of ESG ratings in Russia, as well as a start-up on blockchain technologies in finance. Dr. Kiseleva's research interests also include sustainable corporate governance, ESG, digital transformation, and innovation, brought together under an umbrella approach to organizational change management.

**Dr. Florjan Bombaj** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for Agrarian Studies. Dr. Bombaj received his PhD at Institut Agro Montpellier. Before joining HSE University, he had over 10 years of experience as a lecturer and researcher. Dr. Bombaj's research interests cover endogenous economic development based on the mobilization and activation of local and specific resources, adapted to disadvantaged mountainous territories. His current analysis is focused on the sustainability of value chains through consideration of resource governance modalities that affect production systems at the local and national level.

**Dr. Dhritiman Gupta** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the International Laboratory of Game Theory and Decision Making of the St. Petersburg School of Economics and Management. Dr. Gupta received his PhD at Indian Statistical Institute (India) in 2021. His research interests include contest theory, bargaining

theory, public economics, industrial organization, and economics of information. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Gupta has been involved in teaching such disciplines as microeconomics, game theory, mathematical economics, public economics, industrial organization, contract theory, and statistics.

**Dr. Daria Tereshina** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Historical Research of the School of Arts and Humanities at the HSE University's Campus in St. Petersburg. From 2014 until 2019, she was a doctoral student at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle). She received her PhD in Ethnology at Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) in 2020. Dr. Tereshina's research interests include work and labour, economic anthropology, theories of value, emotions, post-socialism, and gender.

**Dr. Nand Kumar Yadav** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Laboratory of Methods for Big Data Analysis of the Faculty of Computer Science. He received his PhD at Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad (India) in 2023. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Yadav worked as a Senior Research Scholar on the project 'Development of Deep Learning-based Hashing Techniques for Image Retrieval'. His research interests include machine and deep learning-based applications, image processing, biometrics, thermal imaging, generative adversarial networks, unsupervised learning, and computer vision.

**Dr. Cleto Junior Pinto de Abreu** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Historical Research of the School of Arts and Humanities at the HSE University's Campus in St. Petersburg. Dr. Pinto de Abreu received his PhD in Sociology at the University of São Paulo. His research interests cover such topics as religion and social issues, conceptual models in religious studies, tradition and innovation processes, religion and law, ethnography, and qualitative methods.

**Dr. Ben Van de Wall** is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of Philosophy and Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Humanities. Dr. Van de Wall received his PhD from the Institute of Philosophy KU Leuven (Belgium) in 2023 with the thesis 'The dilemma between neutralization and politicization: a Schmittian account of liberal neutrality'. Before joining HSE University, Dr. Van de Wall worked as teaching assistant in such areas as Academic Writing, Ethics, and Political Philosophy. His research interests are political theology, contemporary developments revolving around political identity, and geopolitics. He has worked on thinkers such as Carl Schmitt and Max Weber, as well as contemporary theories of liberalism.