



## CALL FOR PAPERS



**Dear colleagues!**

Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IOS RAS)

and

Oriental Department of the State Academic University of Humanities

(GAUGN)

invite you to participate in the First International Academic Conference

**GODS ON THE MOVE: RELIGIONS IN MOTION**

**(СтраБог / GMRM)**

**Institute of Oriental Studies RAS**

**Rozhdestvenka St., 12, Moscow, Russian Federation**

**October 06–08, 2025**

## BASIC CONCEPT

With rare exceptions, any spiritual teaching or religion strives to expand its circle of adherents. The most obvious example is the apostolic mission of Christianity, from the beginning of the new era until today spreading the Good News both to the West and the East.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the problems of religious and ontological ideas beyond their locus of origin by way of their staged and/or direct spread to other territories

**The main topic of the First Conference — THE MISSION — implies exploring the processes of transfer and introduction of the information about spiritual teachings** usually covered by the scope of subjects studied by missiology. The First GMRM Conference is deliberately limited to missions, thus expanding traditional studies associated with Christianity in the East, to similar processes associated with other — not only world — religions.

We plan to discuss issues related to the Buddhist pioneers traveling from the Indian subcontinent through the gate at Dunhuang along the Silk Road to China and further to the countries of East and Southeast Asia; the spread of Islam in Asia, Africa and the Iberian Peninsula; the Druze in the East and West; the Baha'i religion in Iran, India and Israel, as well as other narratives from different regions and religious systems.

The goals of the conference also include **the local reception of foreign beliefs** by societies and states; **challenges of difficult religious synthesis**; the methodologies used by the “missionaries” to spread their faith (or, on the contrary, questions related to the **encapsulation of alien religious communities**, which for several reasons did not seek to expand the circle of adherents, as in case with Judaism in China)

The first StraBog/GMRM conference of 2025 aims to unite religious scholars, cultural scientists, historians and textual critics from academic and educational institutions dealing with the whole variety of topics and the above-mentioned periods in the history of religions and spiritual teachings of the East.

As part of the conference, **thematic exhibitions** will be held on the premises of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS, information about which will be provided in the Second Information Letter.

## **Main Research Topics of the Conference**

- Christian missiology in the East
- Buddhism on the move
- Judaism outside Judea
- The spread of Islam in historical dynamics
- Exotic/minor religions in foreign lands
- Dunhuang: A meeting place of Christianity, Buddhism and Taoism
- South Asian religions: Interaction with “others” on and beyond the Indian subcontinent

*The Conference Programme will be formed based on the selected applications by October 1, 2025.*

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATIONS**

The First Conference “Gods on the Move: Religions in Motion” will be held offline/online on **October 06–08, 2025** at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Rozhdestvenka St., 12, Moscow, Russian Federation.

**The Organizing Committee welcomes proposals and discussions for exhibition projects, film screenings, lectures and events planned during the conference**

Applications for participation and paper abstracts (5–10 thousand characters) are accepted *only in electronic form* at the e-mail: **[StraBog2025@gmail.com](mailto:StraBog2025@gmail.com)** until **September 01, 2025**.

For all questions, please contact the official conference email:

**[StraBog2025@gmail.com](mailto:StraBog2025@gmail.com)**

Based on the results of the Conference, we plan to publish selected papers in the *Oriental Courier* journal (completed articles are to be sent to the e-mail of the Organizing Committee before December 1, 2025).

Guidelines can be found here:

<https://oriental-courier.ru/pravila-oformleniya-statey-ru-4.html?sl=ru>

*Travel, accommodation, and travel expenses are paid by the sending party.*

*Sincerely yours*

on behalf of the StraBog-I Organizing Committee

***Dinara V. Dubrovskaya***, Dr. Habil. (History), Head of the Department of Art and Material Culture of the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS

***Anna V. Bochkovskaya***, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of South Asian History, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University

***Sophia A. Zintchenko***, Ph.D. (Art History), Associate Professor at the Higher School of Economics; Senior Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

***Natalia V. Safonova***, Ph.D. (History), Research Fellow, Institute of Oriental Studies RAS; Executive Secretary of StraBog-I/GMRM

## APPLICATION FORM

Last name, first name, patronymic: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation 2 (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic degree (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Talk Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation (online/in person): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract of the talk:**

5,000–10,000 characters (including spaces, information about the author and list of references). Please save the application file in Word format.