

International Interdisciplinary Conference: Nature and Culture

June 13-15, 2012 at the North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia

Recent years have seen an increasing academic interest in the cultural implications of the human role in, and impact on, the environment. We are concerned with representations of nature and the understanding, uses and abuses of environments. The American Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) was founded in 1992, now having a number of international affiliates in Europe and Asia. Research networks such as the Scandinavian Network for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies (NIES) have brought together scientists with an interest in the cultural repercussions of their work and humanists with an interest in the environment. A common object of study, the environment, unites many diverse fields as the natural sciences, architecture, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, and pedagogy, among others. The aim of the conference is to bring together Russian and international scholars from different fields and a common interest in the environment with the aim of further developing a Russian perspective in the international discourse of the environmental humanities. The conference will be the first step in forming a research network. It is planned to publish a selection of the conference papers in book form. Conference languages are Russian and English; simultaneous interpretation and translation will be provided.

Topics for presentations and roundtable discussions

- *Philosophical, scientific and technical issues in the interaction of culture and nature*
- *Cultural landscape: history and present*
- *Nature as a social space*
- *Nature in the worldview of different cultures*
- *Nature imagery in the structure of ethnic identity*
- *Cultural landscape and Ecotourism*
- *Cultural geography and the image of the North in literature and art*
- *Mega-projects and environmental sustainability in the North*

Call for papers: Please send your abstract (Russian or English, 300-400 words) to both addresses below before March 31, 2012.

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