Annual International Conference of the Department of Applied Political Science “The October Readings”

**“The Problem of Justice and Freedom in Modern Polarized World "**

**October 15 – 17, 2020**

Dear colleagues!

The Department of Applied Political Science, National Research University Higher School of Economics - St. Petersburg, invites you to participate in the Ninth Annual International Conference “October Readings”. The central theme of the conference in 2020 is “The problem of justice and freedom in the modern polarized world”.

The dialectics of freedom and justice continues to be one of the important issues not only in political philosophy and theory, but also in applied empirical research. In contemporary not simply politicized, but also deeply polarized world, these debates become one of the cornerstones in determining approaches to the wide range of social and political problems. Can we achieve justice without infringing freedoms? Can we achieve freedom without compromising justice? Obviously, in order to solve these issues, it is necessary to clarify exactly what dimensions of freedom and justice are in question, in which philosophical and political context this problem can be examined. Considering these questions as starting points of our discussion, we encourage interdisciplinarity and pluralism and invite to participate in our conference experts from various scholarly fields and competing academic traditions.

We see major directions of your potential contributions along the lines with the following themes and blocks:

1. “Justice” and “freedom” under the conditions of asymmetric globalization and new technologies of the 21st century;

2. The rise of new political practices of freedom and justice;

3. The price of freedom: social costs of political transformations;

4. Justice and freedom: political and philosophical understanding of phenomena;

5. The symbolic dimension of freedom;

6. Justice, freedom and modern nationalism;

7. The role of intellectuals and political leaders in promoting different models of justice and freedom;

8. Justice, freedom and new political populism;

9. Justice and freedom “to the other side of political “right” and “left””;

10. Justice and freedom in the dimension of human rights.

The conference “October Readings - 2020” will be held at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg from October 15-17, 2020.

In accordance with the established tradition, the first day, October 15, will be dedicated to the “Youth Forum” for undergraduate and graduate students. Long abstracts for the “Youth Forum” should be sent to Kirill Shamshura: kirillshamshura@gmail.com no later than June 30, 2020.

The abstracts for the “Youth Forum” should be in the following format: Microsoft Word; Times New Roman, font size – 14, line spacing – 1.5, page margins: top and bottom – 2 cm, right – 1 cm, left – 3 cm. The APA referencing style. The volume of abstracts should not exceed 8,000 characters (including spaces).

October 16-17 are the dates for panels and round tables of the main part of the conference. Please send short abstracts for participation in the conference (150-200 words) with affiliations of the author(s) no later than June 1, 2019 to the email octread2020.hse@gmail.com.

The conference organizing committee, based on the results of the abstract review, will send invitations to participate in the conference no later than July 15, 2020. Papers presented at the conference can be recommended for publication in journal “Public Policy”.

The working languages ​​of the conference are Russian and English.

The chairman of the program committee, Doctor of political science, professor at Higher School of Economics (St. Petersburg), Sergei Akopov