

ABOUT JOURNAL

Full title of the journal: **Tractus aevorum: the evolution of socio-cultural and political spaces**

The History and Philology Department of Belgorod National Research University (Russia) is pleased to announce the launch of a new academic project – an international interdisciplinary journal that will provide a dynamic forum for fruitful discussions among foreign and domestic historians, and scholars of neighbouring disciplines.

The journal “TRACTUS AEVORUM” (Latin for “the path of centuries”) focuses its attention on the twin concepts of space and transition throughout history, with particular emphasis on borders and borderlands. Since 2022, the journal's policy has been focused on the priority involvement of young scientists whose research is relevant to the stated broad themes.

The enigmatic process of transformation from one epoch into another, or what Arthur Koestler called “darkness at noon,” makes its study of particular value to scholars. The complex dynamics of continuity and discontinuity are inherent in any transitional epoch, including our own, where they are critical to understanding contemporary system of international relations.

This approach emphasizes interdisciplinary research. In particular, the anthropological turn in historical scholarship offers a valuable means to study transitions, and a viable methodology for

the examination of socialization across borders (e.g. during urbanization and modernization). The study of historically marginal and/or liminal social groups is similarly of special interest.

Transitivity is closely related to the study of borderlands, in part because of the transformation of state borders that often accompanies these times. Expanded states produce borderland territories with their own history and sense of freedom and justice. They also give rise to dynamic interactions between center and periphery over the issues of ethnicity, assimilation, and identity. In the last decades, historians and political scientists have added much to the study of borderlands, including their role in international conflict and cooperation, an issue of particular importance to the development of a post-Soviet space.

The journal has the following broad themes: 1) transitional epochs; 2) borderlands; 3) empire and periphery; 4) challenges of international transformations; 5) IN LIMIT / SINE LIMITIBUS; 6) intellectual history. This focus notwithstanding, the editorial staff welcomes other thematic approaches that further our understanding of various spaces.

To encourage international and domestic dialogue among scholars, we invite original submissions in Russian and English. Submissions in German or French are also possible. The journal publishes two issues a year.

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