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*Philosophy of technology in Russia: origins, history,
current picture*

Dedicated to the memory of Vitaly Gorokhov

Abstract: The paper analyzes the genesis and history of philosophy of technology in Russia: from its birth in the end of the 19th century till present time. The birth of philosophy of technology in Russia is attributed to P. Engelmeyer, who has originated the very term “philosophy of technology” and with his numerous works has laid the foundations for this new discipline. Next stage of the development was the critical approach towards technology expressed by Russian religious philosophers of the beginning of 20th century – N. Berdyaev and S. Bulgakov, who felt that technological development is a threat to essential human qualities. Another Russian religious thinker of the same period P. Florensky has provided his own versions of “organ projection” approach to the technology, following the steps of E. Kapp. In the soviet period the system approach and general systems theory were being developed – from the early works of A. Bogdanov in the 1920-s to V. Sadovsky and E. Yudin in 1960-s. The similar problems were discussed from the point of view of “methodology approach” in the Moscow Methodology Workshop lead by G. Shchedrovitsky. The most prominent era of the philosophy of technology in late Soviet period (from 1970 onwards) is connected with a plethora of philosophers, the most important figure of those being V. Gorokhov. Gorokhov wrote on history, philosophy and sociology of technology, has dealt with problems of technoscience, nanoscience, technology assessment and education of the engineers. Finally, the paper draws the current picture of the philosophy of technology in Russia, pointing to the main researchers and main subjects of research in this field in present Russian academia.

The birth of philosophy of technology in Russia coincides with the birth of philosophy of technology in the world. This statement does not imply that philosophy of technology was originated by Russian thinkers and then spread to other countries, but, as we will show later, the Russian philosophers have made a significant contribution to the development of this relatively new philosophical discipline.

Prominent Russian philosopher and historian of science and technology Vitaly G. Gorokhov insists that both engineering and philosophical reflection on the questions of engineering and technology have developed in Russia in close connection with Germany. German and Russian engineers and thinkers have constantly interacted – German papers and books on technology have been translated into Russian, Russian engineers had their traineeships at the German factories etc.

Thus, the development of philosophy of technology in Germany and in Russia at the turn of XIX-XX centuries went hand in hand (Gorokhov 2001; 2009b).

1. Petr Engelmeier's "technicism" – the birth of philosophy of technology in Russia

The origins of philosophy of technology in Russia are traditionally attributed to Petr K. Engelmeier (1855-1942), who has used this very expression *filosofia tekhniki* (philosophy of technology in Russian) to characterize his field of work. His most prominent works *Technical sum of the XIX century* (Engelmeier 1898b) and 4 issues of *Philosophy of technology* (Engelmeier 1912) have been a big start for the strong tradition of philosophy of technology in Russia. Engelmeier was a Renaissance man of sorts: philosopher, engineer, entrepreneur, artist, etc. He had personal connections to many prominent thinkers of his time – from the writer Leo Tolstoy (they held a dispute in letters on the questions of ethics) to Austrian philosopher Ernst Mach (Engelmeier also corresponded with Mach and claimed himself to be Mach's follower). He has also attended many international conferences both on philosophy and on the problems of engineering. Many of Engelmeier's papers were published in German journals (Engelmeier 1893; 1894; 1895a; 1896b; 1900b).

Engelmeier can no doubt be counted among the founders of the discipline of philosophy of technology. At the IV World Philosophy Congress in Bologna in 1911 Engelmeier gave three talks and the central message of those was that it's about time to establish new branch of philosophy: philosophy of technology. By his own account, this idea was generally supported, by Henri Bergson and Ernst Mach in particular, as well as by the President of the Congress – Italian mathematician and philosopher of mathematics Federigo Enriques (Engelmeier 1912, Iss. 1, p. 7). Although Engelmeier did not invent the term "philosophy of technology" itself (he often used the word "technicism" to label his own philosophy of technology), he has widely promoted it.

He described the philosophy of technology that was being born at the moment as "the new science that shall ascertain the role of technology as a factor of culture" (Engelmeier 1913, p. 113). Philosophy of technology to his mind should analyze the relations between technology and culture on the whole, technology and art, technology and law, technology and economy, and, especially, technology and science. Philosophy of technology should explore the ways that humans use to adjust the nature to human needs. While the goal of science is the prediction of facts, the role of technology is "affecting the nature, to artificially summon the desirable facts and to block the undesirable" (Gorokhov 2009b, p. 22). Overall, philosophy of technology can be widely understood as philosophy of human activity (Engelmeier 1898, pp. 105-106).

Engelmeier mentions four different types of worldviews that have been prevalent in European thought – artistic, mystic, scientific-philosophical and technical. To his mind, the technical worldview dominates since 19th century. The main trait of this worldview he describes shortly with a proverb «eve-

ry man is the architect of his own fortune» (in Russian this proverb literally sounds like “every man is a smith of his own happiness”), meaning that technical worldview is characterized by the belief in possibility of overcoming any obstacles with technical means. The 19th century is called by Engelmeier “the technical century”.

He argues that while wild animals passively adapt to the natural environment, the human with the help of technology does not need to adapt his body, because he can adjust the environment to the needs of his organism (Engelmeier 1911b). Considering many different definitions of technology, he formulates his own: “Technology is an art of systematically and based on the known natural interactions calling into being certain things” (Engelmeier 1899, p. 97). He insisted on not confusing science and technology with each other, and claimed that while science seeks truth, technology seeks utility.

In his discussions with Leo Tolstoy Engelmeier criticized the former’s “nonviolence” principle. Tolstoy has regarded any resistance or fight against evil as unacceptable, while Engelmeier insisted that technology is proactive, it is a “mean of fight against harm and turning it into benefit” (Engelmeier 1898a, p. 45), while “everything that opposes life is evil and harm, and everything that supports it is good and utile” (*Ibid.*). Though relations between ethics and technology are complicated because the goals of good and utility are not always the same, and while ethics concerns itself with good, the technology is dedicated to the questions of utility (*Ibid.*). Their theoretical disagreements did not prevent Tolstoy to write an introduction to Engelmeier’s work *Inventions and privileges: a manual for the inventors* (Engelmeier 1900a).

Engelmeier’s special philosophical interest was dedicated to the problem of creativity. He concentrated his research on the creative activity of the engineer, of the inventor (*Ibid.*). He sees the process of the invention as a “three-act” (*trekhakt* in Russian) consisting of will, knowledge and skill, that means: 1) setting a goal, 2) knowing how to reach it, and 3) carrying out this plan in practice with material objects. The research of engineering invention for Engelmeier should have been a basis for the “universal theory of creativity” that he called *eurology* (Engelmeier 1910; 1911a; 1914). Eurology should have become a special discipline studying the creative processes and invention (Engelmeier 1925).

Despite the vast input in the philosophy and social research of technology Engelmeier’s works were not popular in Soviet Russia. The main reasons for that should be the change of ideological climate and Engelmeier’s connections with E. Mach. Engelmeier himself considered his own theory of technology as a development of Mach’s ideas. But after Vladimir Lenin’s strong criticism of “machism” in his 1909 *Materialism and empiriocriticism* work, when Soviet Regime came to power, “machism” became a swear word in Soviet philosophy and anyone supporting Mach’s ideas was considered a renegade. It did not bring any harm to Engelmeier personally (he was considerably old by that time), but it did not let other scholars continue his line of work, and his ideas have taken their rightful place in Russian philosophy only in the 1980-s, when he was “rediscovered” by Vitaly G. Gorokhov.

2. Russian religious philosophy and philosophy of technology: kulturkritika of technology

Some issues of philosophy of technology were also present a lot in the works of Russian religious philosophers – Pavel A. Florensky, Nikolai A. Berdyaev, Sergei N. Bulgakov, etc. “Russian cosmism” movement of in early 20th century has also heavily relied on technology when it came to solution of the fundamental problems of humanity. The fate of the human they claimed was “cosmic” – the humanity should eventually go into space and spread among the galaxies – and it was engineers who could make this fate finally happen. Pavel A. Florensky (1882-1937), an Orthodox priest and a mathematician by education who after the Russian revolution had to quit his priesthood and start working in the field of dielectrics engineering, have reflected upon Ernst Kapp’s concept of “organ projection” – in the paper of the same title *Organ projectio* (1919) (Florensky 2000, pp. 402-422). His philosophical reflections on the anthropological aspects of technology were also represented in his book “*At the watersheds of thought*” (Florensky 2000) that consists of his papers on both theological and philosophical subjects written between 1917 and 1926 (including *Organ projection*). To his mind a live human body and its members are the prototypes of technical artifacts. The fall of man (in the religious sense) has brought a divide between human and the world and technology helps to overcome this divide. To his mind every technical device appears from organ projection – an iron comes from human hand, a lens from human eye, electricity – from neural system. Even when we do not see the direct resemblance (for example, what body part does the wheel resemble?), it only means that we do not know our organism’s work well enough so that we cannot find the origin of this projection. A house where all the technical tools and artefacts are brought together («the tool of tools» in Florensky’s words) has the human body itself as its prototype, while at the same time the human as microcosm resembles the world in general (macrocosm) (Sedykh, Khamenkov 2016).

Nikolai A. Berdyaev (1874-1947), a religious and political philosopher, considered to be a representative of Russian branch of existentialism and personalism, one of the most famous Russian philosophers who left Russia on the so-called “Philosopher’s steamboat” in 1922¹, saw development of technology as a threat: the domination of technology that he felt was present at his time was destroying the human souls. In his article *The Human and the Machine* (Berdyaev 1933) he claimed that technologization of culture leads to de-humanization of human. The machine is by its essence anti-human, thus technology strikes against the humanitarian values of culture. Being a religious philosopher, Berdyaev ponders the question of Christians’ relations to technol-

1 “Philosopher’s steamboat” (*Filosofskij parohod*) is a name for the event that took place in 1922. More than 160 Russian intellectuals whose ideas were opposing the Soviet ideology, were expelled from Soviet Russia and they and their families were transported away from Saint-Petersburg to Szczecin (German port at the time) onboard a steamboat. Among them were prominent Russian thinkers Nikolai Berdyaev, Sergei Bulgakov, Semyon Frank, Nikolai Lossky, *et al.*

ogy. He claims that while most Christians regard technology neutrally, thinking that it is engineers' job to think about it, some of the Christians feel technological progress to be the work of the Antichrist. He thinks however that both these points of view are erroneous. The first view supposes that only engineers, not all people, are responsible for technology, and the second view suggests that no creative intervention in the fate of the world is possible. He considers also the third point of view, expressed by Nikolai F. Fedorov (1829-1903), who belongs to the "Russian cosmism" tradition. Fedorov sees science and technology in context of Christianity as the means to achieve virtual eternal life and even to resurrect the dead. Berdyaev concludes that it is what human spirit does with technology that matters, and that technology can help rule over life itself. Another fear expressed by Berdyaev is that those few who will possess technological secrets, will be able to rule the fates of the world. "Technization" of culture was seen by Berdyaev as a threat to humanity, and humanity should stand against the dominance of technology. He believes though that the human spirit triumphs over technology at the very end, and technology will serve human, not vice versa.

Sergei N. Bulgakov (1871-1944), Orthodox priest and philosopher, also an emigrant from Soviet Russia, in his central work *Philosophy of household* (Bulgakov 1912) also considers technology as danger, he feels that the human relying on technology claims to be omnipotent like a God, while it's just an illusion. The nature takes its revenge on human with natural disasters, global climate change etc. for his arrogance. Bulgakov writes that the progress of technology is seen as a way to happiness for all humanity, but it is not so: the technology instead of bringing happiness to the human is turning human into its slave.

For both Berdyaev and Bulgakov, who had to flee from Soviet Russian, technology was an embodiment of the ultra-rational political machine of totalitarian regimes. They saw technological civilization as opposing everything human. Overall this pessimistic view of technology and the evaluation of technology as a threat to the culture, was called the cultural criticism (*kultrukritika*) of technology.

3. System approach and methodology

Another strong tradition of research in Russia that relates to philosophy of technology is the studies in the field of general systems theory and the system approach. The main figure in this field in the early Soviet time, whose ideas have gained popularity again recently, is Alexander A. Bogdanov. Bogdanov is considered by some authors to be a founder of systems theory, predecessor of L. von Bertalanffy and N. Wiener (Loktionov 2016) (the German edition of the work has appeared in 1928, so both von Bertalanffy and Wiener had a chance to read it (Gorelik 1987)). Alexander A. Bogdanov (1873-1928) (the real surname – Malinovsky) was one of the revolutionary leaders and socialist thinkers of the early Soviet time, being at the same time science fiction writer, a medicine practitioner and an encyclopedic scientist. He was also the founder of the blood transfusion practice in Russia (the

first Institute of blood research in the world was founded with his help and he became its first head) and tragically died as a result of a self-conducted experiment in blood transfusion due to rhesus conflict.

He called his philosophical views “empiriomonism” and they were somewhat similar to those of Mach. However, the center of his philosophy was the new science he proposed that he called *tektology* (Bogdanov 1922). Tektology was supposed to be a science comprised of the universal laws of organization, thus anticipating systems theory and cybernetics. Bogdanov wrote that all Universe consists of different organized complexes, from human beings to star systems, each complex should correspond to its environment and adapt to it. A stable and organized complex is greater than the sum of its parts, while disorganized complex will be less than the sum of its parts. He reflects upon the holistic and emergent qualities of the phenomena as well. The main goal of the tektology was to formulate the one universal set of laws of organization of all objects, and Bogdanov have tried thoroughly to do that.

Another take on the similar problems was provided in 1950-1960s by Georgy P. Shchedrovitsky (1929-1994), Vadim N. Sadovsky (1934-2012), Erik G. Yudin (1930-1976). Their work was related to the so-called Moscow Methodology Workshop (MMW) (Rozin 2017) that was founded by Georgy Shchedrovitsky under the influence of the works of A. A. Zinoviev as early as in the late 1950's. The circle evolved into a new methodological tradition and was comprised of Shchedrovitsky's students. A figure of the “methodologist” was seen as someone who does research of the project activity and engineering from the outsider point of view, outside science and technology. Standing outside and applying so-called organisation/activity games as an instrument for the analysis and development of various systems of “mental activity” (programmes, intellectual trends, organisations etc.), methodologist reflects upon the situation in question and can provide the fruitful insight in the matter (Shchedrovitsky 1995; 1996).

Both Vadim Sadovsky and Erik Yudin took active part in the work of the MMW in 1950-1960-s. In 1960 Sadovsky together with the future prominent Russian epistemologist Vladislav A. Lektorsky (Lektorsky, Sadovsky 1960) have published an article *On the principles of system research* where they analyzed the works of von Bertalanffy. This publication gave a boost to the system analysis in Russia. Sadovsky and Yudin continued the work in this field and in the mid-1960-s they have mostly parted ways with MMW and have started working together with Igor V. Blauberg (1929-1990) on philosophy and methodology of system research (Blauberg 1969; 1973; Blauberg, Yudin E. 1972; Blauberg, Sadovsky, Yudin E. 1967; 1977; Sadovsky, Yudin E. 1978; Yudin E. 1978; 1997).

4. Renaissance of Russian philosophy of technology in 1960-1970s and its development in 1980-1990-s

Despite noticeable successes of Russian engineers and scientists and a visible social respect to the profession of engineer, in Soviet Russia philosophy of tech-

nology was for long considered “bourgeois” discipline, which meant it was not worthy of Soviet thinker to pursue it. However different problems of technology were studied within several disciplines like history of technology, philosophical questions of technology, methodology and history of technical sciences, methodology and history of engineering etc. Methodology and system analysis as mentioned above was one of such “euphemisms”.

1960-s saw the renaissance in all spheres of Russian philosophy that came with political and ideological *ottepel* (“the thaw”) that followed Stalin’s death. That was the time when philosophy of science truly flourished, naturally considering problems of philosophy of technology as well, but not bringing them in the vanguard. In 1970-s for the first time since Engelmeyer’s works philosophy of technology has been virtually resurrected. A special Council on philosophy and social problems of science and technology of the USSR Academy of Science was created in 1970s and it was headed by prominent Russian philosopher of science Ivan T. Frolov (1929-1999) since 1980. The new stage was connected first and foremost with the names of Yuri S. Meleshchenko (1992-1972) and Boris I. Ivanov (born 1939) in Leningrad, Vladislav Cheshev (born 1940) in Tomsk, Vadim M. Rozin (one of Shchedrovitsky’s followers, born 1937) and Vitaly G. Gorokhov (1947-2016) in Moscow, *et al.*

Yuri S. Meleshchenko has analyzed processes of technological development and especially technological and scientific revolutions, provided criticism of the technocratic societies (Meleshchenko 1964; 1970; 1987). Boris I. Ivanov’s and Vladislav V. Cheshev works were dedicated to history and philosophy of technical sciences (Ivanov, Cheshev 1977), the epistemological and methodological specifics of the technical sciences and technical knowledge (Cheshev 1981; Ivanov 1997). Both Meleshchenko and Ivanov have worked in the Leningrad Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the USSR (later – Russian) Academy of Sciences – it was one of the main institutions (with its head office in Moscow) where philosophy of technology was being developed. Later the center was shifted to the Institute of Philosophy of USSR (later – Russian) Academy of Sciences, with Vadim M. Rozin and Vitaly G. Gorokhov as central figures.

Vadim M. Rozin, being a follower of Shchedrovitsky’s MMW has developed his own methodological and culturological approach to the problems of technology and technical sciences and provided the research into the origins and genesis of technology. Rozin has proposed four stages of development of technology. First stage is “anthropological” because at this point technology participates in the very making of human, the second stage is “empirical” and “sacral”, the third – “engineering” and the fourth – “technological” in the broader sense (Rozin 1989). Together with Vitaly G. Gorokhov they have made a new step in institutionalization of this discipline – they published first textbooks in philosophy of technology in Russia (Gorokhov, Rozin 1998; Rozin, Gorokhov, Alekseeva, Aronson 1997; Gorokhov, 2007a), Gorokhov has also collaborated with prominent Russian philosophers of science Vyacheslav S. Stepin and Mikhail A. Rozov on the textbooks in philosophy of science and technology (Gorokhov, Rozov, Stepin 1995; 1996).

Irina Yu. Alekseeva (born 1956) was also a part of the research group working on philosophy of technology at the RAS Institute of Philosophy. Her earlier works were dedicated to the emerging computer technologies (Alekseeva 1993) and history of philosophy of technology and ethical questions of engineering (Alekseeva 1997a; 1997b), later her attention switched to the so-called convergent NBIC-technologies, information technologies and the questions of information society and knowledge society.

Another prominent figure of this period is Nadezhda G. Bagdasaryan (born 1947). Working in Bauman Moscow State University (former alma mater of Petr Engelmeyer) since 1969, she has created there in 1987 the Chair of sociology and culturology that became the first Chair of these disciplines in the structure of technical universities in Russia. She has devoted lots of her works to the problems of humanitarian education of engineers as an essential part of their professional culture (Bagdasaryan 1996; 1998). Bagdasaryan has also collaborated with Vitaly G. Gorokhov on many subjects, and they wrote textbooks together (Bagdasaryan, Gorokhov, Nazaretyan 2014). Bagdasaryan was also one of the principle organizers of the series of Engelmeyer Readings conferences in 1990s- early 2000-s, dedicated to the questions of philosophy of technology, engineer ethics, social and cultural aspects of technological development.

5. Philosophy of technology in the works of Vitaly G. Gorokhov

Probably the most important figure in the new period of Russian philosophy of technology was Vitaly G. Gorokhov (1947-2016). He was not only a link between the past of Russian philosophy of technology, rediscovering the works of Petr Engelmeyer and bringing attention to this important thinker, he was also the connecting link between all the researchers in the field of philosophy and sociology of technology and engineering in Russia, and also, working for a long time in the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, he established strong ties between Russian and German specialists in this field.

Coming from the family of engineers, Vitaly Gorokhov has been at first considered by his parents and relatives a “black sheep” in his pursue of philosophy instead of technical disciplines. However, he has always maintained a special interest in the engineering profession and always spoke the same language with philosophers and engineers alike. He had closely collaborated with many technical universities – in particular Bauman Moscow State Technical University, where he, together with Nadezhda G. Bagdasaryan, has worked in the field of development the professional culture of the engineer students. His first books *Systems engineering and management* (Gorokhov 1979) and *Methodological analysis of systems engineering* (Gorokhov 1982) were dedicated to systems engineering (*systemotekhnika*). They were followed by several books both popular and scientific on the questions of the profession of an engineer – its emergence and development, the processes of the formation of professional societies of engineers and of the technical schools (Gorokhov 1987). He has thoroughly analyzed the history of philoso-

phy of technology in Russian and Germany, bringing back attention to the works of Petr Engelmeyer (Gorokhov 1997; 2001; 2009b).

Gorokhov continued his work well into the 2010-s, until his untimely death in 2016. His later research projects related to the problems of technoscience, nanotechnology, sociology of technology (Andreev, Gorokhov, Butirin 2009; Gorokhov 2009a) and social assessment of technology (Gorokhov 2000; 2003; 2004; 2007b; 2007c; 2012b; Gorokhov, Decker 2013; Gorokhov, Grunwald 2011; Gorokhov, Scherz 2011). He has demonstrated that nanoscience should be understood as nanotechnoscience because it uses both the methods of natural sciences and of technical sciences. Nanotechnologies, he claimed, are oriented towards both research of the natural phenomena and at the same time towards the artificial realization of some processes and design of the nanosystems, thus nanotechnoscience deals with special “natural-artificial systems” (Gorokhov 2009c; 2009d; 2009e; 2010; 2012d; 2013c; Gorokhov, Lenk 2009; Gorokhov, Stepin 2009).

Gorokhov has always had an interest in historical research of science and technology. A comprehensive history of the development of technical sciences was given by him in his 2012 book “Technical Sciences: History and Theory (The History of Science from the Point of View of Philosophy)” (Gorokhov 2012c). Apart from this opus and his works on Engelmeyer, he was also interested in the period of the emergence of modern natural science in the works of Galileo Galilei (Gorokhov 2011; 2012a; 2013a; 2014; 2015), whom he considered to be the originator of technoscience and first philosopher of technology, even one of the first technology assessment experts (Gorokhov 2013b). One of his latest research projects was called *From Galilei's technoscience to technoscience* and Gorokhov took his time to specially visit some places connected with the work of Galilei in Padua, Pisa, Florence etc.

6. Philosophy of technology in the present Russia

Currently the work in philosophy of technology is continued by Vadim M. Rozin (Rozin 2001; 2006), Irina Yu. Alekseeva (Alekseeva 2013; Malyuk, Polyanskaya, Alekseeva 2016; Alekseeva, Arshinov 2016), Nadezhda G. Bagdasaryan (Bagdasaryan, Gavrulina 2011), Andrei A. Voronin (Voronin 2006) in Moscow, Boris I. Ivanov (Ivanov 2009) in Saint-Petersburg, Vladislav V. Cheshev (Cheshev 2006) in Tomsk. A younger generation of philosophers of technology – former students of Vitaly G. Gorokhov continue their work in the steps of Gorokhov, especially in the field of technology assessment, continuing the collaboration with Karlsruhe Institute of Technology – Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (Chernikova, Serechkina, Cheshev, Sitnikova, Platonova, Ivanova, Grunwald 2015) – Dmitry V. Efremenko (Efremenko 2002; Efremenko, Giryayeva, Evseeva 2002), Elena A. Gavrulina (Bagdasaryan, Gavrulina 2011; Grunwald, Gavrulina, Gorokhova A., Gorokhova G., Efimenko 2011; Gavrulina 2015) *et al.*

Historical aspects of philosophy of technology are also developed by Alexander V. Mikhailovskiy (Mikhailovsky 2011; 2013; 2016; 2017; 2018) in Moscow and Natalia V. Popkova (Popkova, 2007; 2008; 2012) in Bryansk.

A new field within philosophy of technology has emerged in 2000-s due to the successes of the biotechnologies. Boris G. Yudin (1943-2017), younger brother of Erik G. Yudin (see above), a specialist in ethics of science and bioethics, has become one of the pioneers in this field, promoting the idea of philosophy as humanitarian expertise of technological and biotechnological problems (Yudin B., Lukov 2006; Yudin B. 2007b; 2014; 2015; Tishchenko, Yudin B. 2017). His later interest was related to the problems of human biotechnological “enhancement” and “transhumanism” program (Yudin B. 2007a; 2013; 2016]. His work in 2000-s was realized in the Department of Humanitarian Expertise and Bioethics of the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, together with his colleagues (Pavel D. Tishchenko (Tishchenko 2001) and former students (Popova 2017) *et al.*

In May 2017 the conference “*Philosophy and sociology of technology in the 21st century*” was organized in honor of Vitaly Gorokhov and to the 70th anniversary of his birthday (Alekseeva, Kostikova, Yakovleva (eds.) 2018). It was a big international and multidisciplinary event that showed great interest in these problems existing in different scientific directions. This was the first of Gorokhov Readings that are supposed to become bi-annual conference. Another scientific heritage of Vitaly Gorokhov is the journal “*Philosophy of Science and Technology*”, a journal, conceived by prominent Russian epistemologist Vladislav A. Lektorsky and Gorokhov, where Gorokhov was a deputy editor-in-chief for two years, putting a great effort into the organization of the journal, bringing all the main specialists in philosophy of technology in Russia to its editorial board.

Current philosophy of technology in Russia is an interdisciplinary field of research – a point of meeting of specialists from technical, social, natural sciences and humanities. It is often integrated in the broader STS programs or technology assessment initiatives. The present agenda of digitalization of the human environment is sure to call for the new challenges that bring philosophy of technology to the vanguard, set new goals and bring to life new research programs in this field.

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