

**1st ISCAR International Summer School for PhD Students:  
Cultural-Historical Research Methodology:  
Rethinking the Past for the Future**

**Kajaani, Finland: June 20-24, 2010**

Held by the University of Oulu, Finland  
in cooperation with *the* Moscow State University of Psychology & Education

*Organizing Committee:* Nikolai Veresov (Finland), Vitaly Rubtsov (Russia), Inna Koperanova (Russia), Michalis Kontopodis (Germany), Pentti Hakkarainen (Finland), Riitta-Liisa Korkeamaki (Finland), Morten Nissen (Denmark), Sylvia Rojas-Drummond (Mexico)

*Workshops held by:* Milda Bredikyte (Finland), Pentti Hakkarainen (Finland), Arkady Margolis (Russia), Bert van Oers (the Netherlands), Clotilde Pontecorvo (Italy/ requested), Vitaly Rubtsov (Russia), Nikolai Veresov (Finland).

*Deadline for Applications:* March 15, 2010

*Registration Fee:* 25 Euro (to be paid in cash during arrival/ accommodation for free!)

*Places:* 25 (no possibility to accept more students – first come first served!)

*Language:* English (only minimum spoken English skills required)

*Aims and Topics*

The International Society for Cultural & Activity Research ([www.iscar.org](http://www.iscar.org)) is an association, whose purpose is the promotion and development of multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical research on societal, cultural and historical dimensions of human practices. ISCAR was formally constituted in June 2002 and aims to achieve increased participation of PhD Students in Society Business in the coming years. The 1st ISCAR Summer School aims to bring together PhD students from different disciplines from all over the world who have an interest in theoretical and methodological perspectives that were first formulated in the 1920s and 1930s by such researchers as L.S. Vygotsky, A.N. Leontiev, A.R. Luria, M. Bakhtin and S.L. Rubinshtein. A common point of reference that appears in most, if not all, research conducted by ISCAR members is a focus on the study of specific cultural practices and/or the genesis and development of mental processes, where practices and processes are conceptualized as historically and collectively developed, mediated through the use of tools and signs, and constructed through participation in these practices. Investigations are directed to both individual and/or collective aspects.

In this frame the 1st ISCAR Summer School held by the University of Oulu, Finland in cooperation with the Moscow State University of Psychology and Education will combine an intensive teaching program with spaces for informal interaction and for exchange of ideas with renown European and Russian cultural-historical scholars (Milda Bredikyte & Pentti Hakkarainen, Arkady Margolis, Bert van Oers, Clotilde Pontecorvo, Vitaly Rubtsov, Nikolai Veresov) and other members of the ISCAR Executive Committee. We hope that the next Summer School will be held in another continent thus giving the possibility to PhD students to meet renown cultural-historical scholars from other continents. A series of issues will be discussed such as: philosophy and epistemology of cultural-historical research, translation and interpretation of original sources, methods and methodology of research, new technologies and research, data analysis and writing of the PhD thesis, politics of funding, international networking, participation and voice of PhD students in ISCAR, preparation of a PhD ISCAR pre-congress for 2011.

The Summer School is addressed to PhD Students who work on the following topics with a multi-cross- and interdisciplinary orientation:

- conditions and contexts for learning in educational institutions and elsewhere
- the design and use of technological tools in relation to work and educational practices
- the conditions and characteristics of work practices and/or their transformation and development

- forms of collectivity, community, and participation
- cultural diversity and processes of inclusion and exclusion
- identity formation in diverse cultural contexts
- children's play and transition to schooling
- conditions and contents of schooling and instruction for diverse groups (cultural minorities, atypical physical or psychological development) and various subject-matters
- the role of communication and dialogue in forming meaning in work, play, family, and school
- the relationship between self and culture from a historical perspective
- collective memory
- other related topics

### *Venue*

The Summer School will take place at Rehja island near Kajaani in Finland which offers a very particular environment (great nature and small rooms with saunas).

Participants are expected to arrive on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June and travel as a group by boat to the Rehja island, 35 km away from Kajaani (Please, note that REHJA ISLAND IS REACHABLE ONLY BY BOAT). The Summer School program will begin on the next day at 10.00. Participants will depart from the island on the 24th of June. International students may want to travel from there to Moscow – near where the International Vygotsky Summer School organized by Elena Kravtsova takes place from 05.07.10 to 17.07.10. The nearest airport is in Kajaani: [http://www.finavia.fi/airports/airport\\_kajaani](http://www.finavia.fi/airports/airport_kajaani)

It is 8 kilometres from the city Centre (Campus is there). Train station is in the city centre as well (two kilometers to Campus): <http://internetsivu.yritysoapas.com/vrrautatieasemakajaani/sijainti/>

Tickets booking (train) is here: <http://www.vr.fi/eng/>

There is also a bus station: <http://www.directa.fi/companies/3775099/Pohjolan+Matka%2C+linja-autoliikenne/>

The Kajaani website is here: <http://www.kajaani.fi/Matkailu/Englanti/>

### *Application Process*

Applicants are requested to submit per Email to [news@iscar.org](mailto:news@iscar.org) one A4 page in .doc format in which they provide in narrative form the following information:

- Personal Information (Name, Gender, Place, University, PhD Supervisor etc.)
- Funding Resources for the PhD Dissertation
- Current State of PhD Research and Writing
- Topic of PhD Dissertation
- Interest in and expectations from the Summer School
- Former participation to other international meetings
- Particular questions they would like to discuss
- Other relevant information
- Attachment: A list of articles/ Chapters published by themselves in APA format (if any)

This information should not be confidential and will be circulated among selected participants in advance to the Summer School.

Given the fact that ONLY 25 PhD students can participate in the Summer School applicants will be selected on "first-come-first-served" basis given the general quality of their research and applications. Participants are thus encouraged to apply as soon as possible. One third of the places will be kept till the application deadline for participants coming from non-European and non-North-Atlantic countries. The organizers will be very happy to host a mixed group of students from different age groups, genders, classes, countries of origin, races and cultures and with different levels of proficiency in English.

Deadline for the applications is March 15, 2010. Applications per Email to [news@iscar.org](mailto:news@iscar.org). For inquiries before March 15 please contact Nikolai Veresov in Finland: [nikolai.veresov@oulu.fi](mailto:nikolai.veresov@oulu.fi) or the Russian coordinator Inna Korepanova: [iakorepanova@gmail.com](mailto:iakorepanova@gmail.com)