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MONTENEGRIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**HUMANITIES AND THE  
CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

First Call

*Hosted by*  
Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts

7–9 June 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro

# BACKGROUND

Many believe that “science and technology are critically important to keeping a nation’s economy competitive and for addressing challenges we face in climate change, health care, defence, energy production and use, and the environment”, but also that “an advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future”. Not much effort has been made to examine how the Humanities can make contributions to our future. Scientists have been asked to demonstrate their value to policymakers; now the humanists must show how they can do it.

There is a need in the contemporary world to identify the contributions of the Humanities to many areas of social policy, especially in regard to ethical, legal, and social issues. The Humanities can also help us understand how science and technology intersect with broader societal interests. The rise of biomedical ethics, research ethics, environmental ethics, and computer ethics shows how the Humanities can help us live with the expanding powers of science and technology, even revolutionary scientific advances.

A problem is that the Humanities can easily be made to serve political interests, especially when they are related to national values. This is probably because the Humanities are not seen as an integrated whole – a coherent enterprise of an intellectual and ethical nature – but instead as some kind of sum of the fields of history, literature etc, with each field taught in a traditional nationalistic way. We should try somehow to make the Humanities a unifying force working for a unified world rather than for separate nationalist causes. This should also be reflected in education.

Might the Humanities be treated as representing some kind of a trans-nationalistic, universal understanding of a set of principles and values, such as openness, universalism, disinterestedness, and organized scepticism?

## The Conference aims to discuss:

- ◆ Humanities and politics,
- ◆ Humanities and global culture,
- ◆ Humanities and nationalism,
- ◆ Humanities and individual spirituality
- ◆ Humanities and socio-economic competitiveness
- ◆ Expanding existing science/humanities collaborations
- ◆ Developing practical alliances between scientists, engineers, social scientists and humanists

## **Technical details:**

Place: Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, Podgorica, Montenegro

Date: 7–9 June 2012

No conference fee will be charged.

Working language: English

Local costs for Conference participants will be covered by the organizer, including: Hotel accommodation with full board, transfer airport-hotel-airport, social events and (schedule permitting) daily excursion.

### **Deadline for application:**

15 February 2012

(title and up to 1 page abstract with full address and email)

### **Notification of contribution acceptance:**

15 March 2012

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