



St Petersburg  
State University



## Network Perspectives on Communication, Knowledge & Culture: From Theory to Empirical Applications

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar *Network Perspectives on Communication, Knowledge & Culture: From Theory to Empirical Applications* took place at the Centre for German and European Studies on November 16 2013. The seminar was organized as part of CGES' research area Network Structures in Germany, Europe and Russia. Students, researchers and professors from The University of Amsterdam, Humboldt University in Berlin, St. Petersburg State University and NRU Higher School of Economics participated in the event.

Participants of the seminar discussed recent theoretical and methodological issues as well as empirical applications of joint network analysis of knowledge, communication and culture.

The first part of the Seminar revolved around the concepts of communication, knowledge and culture.



**Jan Fuhse** (Humboldt University, Germany) examined communication as a complex process of structure formation, which – viewed as a series of recursively connected communicative events – drives the evolution of social networks. These networks consist of relational expectations and are linked to cultural networks of meaning. Drawing on N. Luhmann, Fuhse showed how in this approach knowledge related to the information aspect of communication is independent from the actors of communication network.

**Wouter de Nooy** (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands) explained the structural dynamics of communication through communicators' reciprocal perception and practical implementation of statuses and desirable sequences of role-based interactions implicitly pledged in culture. He suggested that culture may emerge in stable sequences of communicative actions between individuals.

**Nikita Basov** (St. Petersburg State University) suggested investigating – with the help of a combination of autopoiesis theory and network approach – the co-evolution of knowledge and communication structures as specific cultural configurations of social entities within the process of structural coupling between such entities in a common environment. He described his methodological considerations related to the mapping of knowledge structures by means of semantic networks analysis; constructing of 2-mode networks of actors and concepts comprising knowledge structures; detection of subgroups in a combination of 1-mode and 2-mode networks of actors and concepts; visualizing knowledge-communication network configurations as composite 3-dimensional structural models.



