

BASIA NIKIFOROVA

INMEMORIAM NIKOLAJ BESPAMIATNYKH (1953.06.26 – 2017.11.27)

On November 27, 2017, died in Grodno, our colleague Nikolaj Bepamiatnykh – a famous Belarusian culturologist and sociologist, associated professor of Sociology department in Grodno State University.

Nikolaj Bepamiatnykh's sphere of the scientific interests was cultural and religious boundaries, mythology in the context of culture, as well as the ethno-sociological studies of the identification processes of various national groups of the Belarusian-Polish-Lithuanian borderland. Author of more than 200 scientific works, including 5 monographs: "Mythology: Introduction to Myth Theory" (2004), "Ethno-cultural border and Belarusian Identity: the Problems of Methodology of Cross-cultural interactions analysis" (2007), "Belarusian-Polish-Lithuanian border: Borders, Culture, Identity" (2007; 2013), "Borders and Borderland: Approaches, Concepts, Perspectives" (2012).

During 20 years, Nikolai took part in such international academic projects as Ratsgymnasium (Minden, Germany, 1994), "Danish Society: Society, Religion, Mythology" (Pauling, Denmark, 1997). He was Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Graduate (Pace, New York, 1998), member of the IEARN program (Frederick Douglas Academy, New York, 2002). In 2000, as a Fellow of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, he conducted teaching and research in the Department of Belarusian Philology at Vilnius Pedagogical University. In 2001, he participated in the International Program "Baltic Sea Region: Countries, Societies, Politics" (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan Poland, 2001), in the program of ACLS (American Council of Scientific Societies) in 2001, in the International humanitarian The Central and Eastern Europe School (University of Warsaw, 2007) in the International CASE Project "Social Transformation in Border: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine" (Vilnius, 2012-13). He participated in international scientific conferences and

seminars, including the Vilnius Pedagogical University, the European Humanities University, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute (Vilnius), at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) in Kaunas, in the F. Abundance library in London, Aarhus University (Denmark), Georgetown University of Washington, at the San Jose State University (USA), at the International Center for Problem investigation Minorities (Flensburg, Germany).

Nikolai was one of the best tour guides for Grodno, Vilnius and Kaunas excursion, the author of the touring route “On the Places of Adam Mickiewicz”.

He was co-organizer of international conference in Lithuanian Culture Research Institute “The Role of Historical and Cultural Memory in the National and European Identity” (2004) and round table “From Borderline to Borderland: new challenge of remaking Eastern borders” (2009). Nikolai was *Sovijus* reviewer and a co-author of article *Belarusian-Lithuanian Border. Between Fear and Hope: a View from Both Sides*. Nikolai was fluent in English, Polish, Hebrew and Lithuanian languages.

We will remind him as great personality, intellectuals, teacher and researcher which works until last days of his life.