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The Faculty of Philosophy of Ural Federal University: History, Events, People

Boris V. Emel'yanov and Alexander V. Pertsev*

Ural Federal University

51 Lenina str., Ekaterinburg, 620083 Russia¹

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The article presents a historical review of creation and life of the faculty of philosophy of Ural State University (Ural Federal University at present). Special attention is paid to the current state of innovative, educational and scientific activities of its chairs.

Keywords: faculty of philosophy, dialectical and historical materialism, history of philosophy, sociolinguistics, religious studies, legal philosophy, philosophical anthropology.

The faculty of philosophy of Ural University is the third faculty of philosophy in Russia after St. Petersburg and Moscow; it has its own history, features of institutionalization and contribution to the history of Russian philosophy.

Although the actual date of its foundation is 1965, its story began much earlier.

Sverdlovsk was recognized as a cultural and scientific center of the Urals after the Great Patriotic war. Many famous scientists, including philosophers (most of whom were leaders of the major party at the same time), worked in its universities and numerous academic and industrial research institutes.

The chair of philosophy in Ural University was created in 1943 by Solomon Zaharovich Katsenbogen (1889-1946), who taught at it from 1939 until his death. He was replaced on his position of the head of the chair by Mikhail Trifonovich Iovchuk (1908-1990), who previously

worked in the department of propaganda and agitation as a secretary of the Communist party of Belarus. His transfer to Sverdlovsk and the appointment as the head of the department of philosophy of Ural University was a kind of exile, the reason for which was his signature under the obituary of Mikhoels, a famous director deceased in Minsk. His contribution to the development of Philosophy in Ural University is doubtless. Firstly, M. T. Iovchuk, already a well-known historian of Russian Philosophy, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, created a center to study Russian philosophy in Sverdlovsk and devoted several volumes of "USU Academic Notes" to philosophy. Secondly, he organized courses for post-graduate students. G. Mokronosov, I. Sushkov, F. Sadykov were his first post-graduate students, who later became very well-known professors of philosophy.

* Corresponding author E-mail address: apercev@mail.ru

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At the same time Dmitry Ivanovich Chesnokov (1910-1978), who worked as a secretary of Sverdlovsk city committee of the party, delivered lectures on philosophy of history of Russian philosophy at the university. Mikhail Nikolaevich Rutkevich was his graduate student in 1947-1948. Later he organized the faculty of philosophy in USU. Finally, Vladimir Semenovich Krujkov (b. 1905) was another historian of Russian philosophy. He worked at the chair of philosophy of the university in 1955-1961, replacing M. T. Iovchuk at the position of its head. In these same years, the chair of logic and psychology was created at the faculty of history and philology. This chair was headed by G. A. Kursanov (1914-1977). This chair and the university-wide chair of philosophy both were educating staff of the future faculty of philosophy.

Before the faculty of philosophy was founded, a new laboratory of sociology (one of the first in the country) had been organized at the chair of philosophy; this circumstance was a specific feature in the development of philosophy in Ural University. Employees of this laboratory studied the relations between plans of young people for their future life and structures of the educational system, as well as plans of enterprises on social development, territories and sectors of industry. The collective monograph "The Rise of Cultural and Technical Standards of the Working Class in the USSR" was the first result of work of this sociological laboratory.

After the departure of M. T. Iovchuk to Moscow in 1953, the chair of philosophy was headed by M. N. Rutkevich (1917-2009), who by the time defended his candidate thesis "Practice as the Basis of Knowledge and Criterion of Truth"; the work was published in 1952 in Moscow and soon was translated in five languages. The course of lectures on dialectical materialism, which he read to the students of the faculty of physics

of USU, also brought him glory. This course was published in Moscow in 1959 and reissued in 1960. For many years it was a tutorial book for students who studied Marxist philosophy. These were intellectual preconditions internal to USU, which contributed subsequently to the organization of the faculty of philosophy at the university.

There were parallel external socio-humanitarian factors of its organization. As M. N. Rutkevich writes, the sphere of humanitarian sciences significantly lagged behind the sphere of natural sciences in the 60ies. "In spite of the fact that a number of universities in Sverdlovsk had prepared good specialists in philology, history, economics, law, pedagogy, however major scientific schools in these fields of knowledge did not exist in the city, and there was not a single institute of humanitarian profile in the system of the Ural branch of the Academy of sciences. There was no training of specialists in the disciplines of philosophical cycle (namely in philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, sociology, logic, religion) not only in the city, not only in the Urals, but also on the whole vast territory to the east from Moscow and up to the very eastern borders of the country. Meanwhile, the need for training specialists in this field of knowledge was felt more acute with the rise of trends of independent, non-dogmatic thinking in the society" (see: Rutkevich, 2003. P. 36-38).

The faculty of philosophy was created on this generally positive background. In the beginning, the department of philosophy at the historical faculty was established, and then the faculty of philosophy proper was founded. Moscow authorities were a bit alerted by the creation of a new philosophical faculty, but the support of the local body of the party and high scientific and teaching potential of the USU's department of philosophy and Sverdlovsk on the

whole let the new faculty start its glorious history on September 1st, 1965.

Mikhail Nikolaevich Rutkevich quite naturally became the first dean. His disciples and researchers always wrote about him as about a scientist and a dean. We shall give just one quotation about him: "The autonomy of the faculty was formed in the era of M. N. Rutkevich – the autonomy, which was supported from inside by the dedication of each one of us (at least many) to do research, to write candidate and doctoral dissertations, to teach also on the basis of those new scientific results, which had been obtained as a result of the efforts of the teacher himself. M. N. Rutkevich was a favorite lecturer, a strict but fair dean for students as well as an ideal scientist, administrator and teacher" (Skorobogatsky, 2008).

The USU's faculty educational program differed from programs of the faculties of philosophy of the Moscow State University and Leningrad State University. It was implemented by a combination of interconnected advantages of the domestic system of education formed in the soviet time, such as solidity, scientific nature, connection with the practice and needs of the society. For example, the basic courses of natural sciences were a significant part of the curriculum, and such prominent scientists, as academicians S.V. Vonsovsky, S.S. Schwartz, A. T. Mokronosov, were reading these courses. The courses of general and national history were not forgotten as well: M.M. Syuzumov, V.V. Adamov and M.A. Polyakovskaya read them.

Several specialized departments with their own subjects of scientific research were established at the faculty. The chair of dialectical materialism emerged under the leadership of M.N. Rutkevich. This chair developed two scientific topics: "The theory of materialistic dialectics" and "Lenin's theory of reflection". Several monographs devoted to these topics were published. M. N. Rutkevich's

textbook "Dialectical materialism", published in 1973, went through two editions, and it was the first textbook for philosophical faculties in our country. The chair of historical materialism headed by professor L. M. Arkhangelsky was organized in the same 1966, bringing together philosophical specialization in historical materialism and ethics. After the departure of L. M. Arkhangelsky this chair was headed by Professor G. P. Orlov over the next 15 years.

The beginning of the 60's was an interesting period in the history of aesthetics. Unilateral epistemological and political-ideological concepts of art, naturalistic approach to aesthetic phenomena had been left in the past. Aesthetics provided new guidelines for the development of its axiological and semiotic dimensions. The chair of aesthetics headed by professor A. F. Ereemeev was created in 1966 at the faculty in line with new theoretical-methodological orientations. Its scientific direction was determined by two topics: "Analysis of aesthetics as a multi-level system of subject-object value relations" and "Analysis of art as a complex poly-functional operational system". In 1974 A. F. Ereemeev became the chairman of the Council on problems of aesthetics and culture of the State Committee on Higher Education of the Russian Federation.

The chair of history of philosophy was headed by professor K. N. Lyubutin from the moment of its foundation in 1969. The general direction of scientific research was "The Problem of man and humanity in the history of philosophy"; it was formed on this chair owing to organizational activity of its leader. The investigation of the problem was reflected in seven collections of articles named "Historical and Philosophical Studies", written by members of this chair. The problems of man and humanity from pre-Marxist to bourgeois philosophy of the late XIX-XX century were described in these publications.

There were five chairs in the faculty after five years, and soon the dissertation council was opened. Unfortunately, the control of the party, constantly presented in relation to philosophy, became politically stricter by the end of the 60ies. The question of the educational work at the faculty was discussed at the meeting of the bureau of the regional committee of the CPSU in the spring of 1972, and Y. P. Ryabov, the first secretary of this committee, subjected the faculty to sharp criticism. Soon M. N. Rutkevich accepted the invitation to head the Institute of sociological studies at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

“The romantic-lyceum phase of the faculty’s development ended with his departure. The faculty resisted the pressure of the external environment and held a certain academic level as long as there were attempts of creative search. When most of the teachers defended their candidate dissertations, the faculty became a mature structure and started to incorporate into the system of ideological organs – of the party committee of USU, the party committee of the city, the regional party committee, etc. A turning point in its development was in the end of 1970 – the beginning of the 1980s. Nothing much actually happened when Leonid Mikhailovich Arkhangelsky was the dean (1973-1976); the previous processes were continued by inertia. An alarming signal was the emergence of “cases”, such as the case of V.M. Kasvan, who left for the West” (Skorobogatsky, 2008. P. 438).

The third dean of the faculty of philosophy, who headed it until 1989, was Konstantin Nikolaevich Lyubutin, instead of L. M. Arkhangelsky who had gone to Moscow. Lyubutin did a lot for the life of the faculty. The faculty was filled with candidates and doctors of science during his leadership. Good results were received owing to his attentive attitude to post-graduate students and young scientists. Young scientists and teachers started to teach

and to take part in scientific conferences and research centers in universities of Europe and the USA. Accordingly, the popularity of the faculty increased abroad, and specialists began to speak more about its scientific potential. And, what was no less important, “he didn’t use the techniques of psychological and administrative pressure on the staff, he preferred to convince or agree” (Skorobogatsky, 2008. P. 448).

The era of deans as graduates of the faculty began after administration of K.N. Lyubutin. Vyacheslav Vasilievich Skorobogatsky headed the faculty during two years (1989-1990). It was the most difficult period in the life of not only the country, but also of the faculty: the Marxist monoideology ceased to be the “leading and guiding”, censorship and party control disappeared. Outwardly, the usual stereotypes and training courses demanded revision and modernization. The steps taken by V.V. Skorobogatsky in this direction did not give immediate results.

The situation changed somewhat, when Boris Borisovich Bagirov, the head of the faculty chair of socio-political sciences, became the dean in October 1990. The chairs, each in its field of knowledge, successfully mastered the new realities of social life in the renewed Russia. Most clearly it was visible on the example of the chair of history and theory of scientific atheism, created in 1986. Its head professor Daniil Valentinovich Pivovarov did a great work to reconstruct the structure and content of training courses. His chair was renamed as the chair of history and philosophy of religion. Now this chair is the base of the department of religious studies of the faculty of philosophy. Candidate and doctoral dissertations in religious studies were defended in the dissertation council.

Finally, when B. B. Bagirov was the dean, the faculty was divided in two separate structures: the faculty of philosophy and the faculty of

political science and sociology. This separation, we can say, made the philosophical faculty free of not peculiar to it mainstreaming of concrete sociological researches, the analysis of political situations, etc. In fact, faculties of philosophy in Moscow and St. Petersburg behaved the same way, but slightly earlier.

Alexander V. Pertsev, widely known in the circles of historians of western philosophy, was elected as a new dean of the faculty of philosophy in 1995. Excellent knowledge of the German language allowed him, while he was on training courses at the Institute of philosophy of the University of Vienna, to go deep into studying of the German philosophical anthropology, researching of the "other" philosophical society, the embodiment of philosophical ideas in politics and culture. And the main thing – to prove understanding of the history of philosophy as an anthropologically and humanistically oriented discipline, which object of studying were not ideas, but people and their relationships. His translations of works of C. Jaspers, W. Brüning and P. Sloterdijk are widely known. Pertsev's translation of the book of Sloterdijk "Critique of Cynical Reason" was recognized as the best philosophical book, published in Russia in 2001.

The last 15 years in the life of the faculty can be considered to be the beginning of a new, modern, history of the faculty of philosophy, and it is possible to illustrate this with several examples.

The end of the 1990s – beginning of 2010s was a time of "grant victories" of the scientists of the department, and these were the grants received not only from Russian scientific research centers (including the Ministry of Education), but also solid dollar grants from the foundations of Soros, Carnegie, Kennan. These grants allowed for each of the chairs of the faculty to accomplish a number of fundamental research works, as well as to win certain kind feelings of the leaders of

the Soros fund, the Carnegie and Kennan centers for the scientists of the faculty of philosophy. A good example of is the Institute of tolerance (director professor M. B. Homyakov), established at the faculty in 2001. Kennan and Carnegie's grants, that had been won by the faculty, allowed to convert it into an Inter-regional institute of social sciences, the third in Russia (academic director – professor B. V. Emelyanov, executive director – M. B. Homyakov); it operates at the present time.

At the same time the publishing of not less than three fundamental dictionaries was a remarkable event for the faculty. "Modern dictionary of philosophy" (London, 1998), was awarded the prize of the Ural university and the prize of Tatischev and de Genning. "Dictionary of human rights. Legal culture and human rights in Russia today" (2006) received a high estimation of human rights defenders in Ekaterinburg and Russia. Finally, the chair of ontology and theory of cognition published the dictionary "General problems of philosophy of science" (2007) responding to the needs of the development of the new philosophical discipline "History and philosophy of science", which became compulsory for passing candidate exams.

Prestige of the faculty and its scientists has increased both in the country and in the world community in the last two decades. There are many examples of this phenomenon. The leading scientists of the faculty (L. N. Kogan, K. N. Lyubutin, B. V. Emelyanov, A.V. Pertsev, M. B. Homyakov, etc.) were elected back in the 90ies as full members of the Russian academy of natural sciences, and in the following years as members of other foreign, international and national scientific societies and academies. A.V. Pertsev, the dean of the faculty, was elected as one of vice-presidents of the Russian philosophical society and a member of the Educational-methodical association (EMA).

Finally, it was Ekaterinburg which became (after St. Petersburg) the place for the second congress of philosophy; this congress left a noticeable trace in the development of philosophical thought in Russia.

Over the past two decades the scientific council of the faculty of philosophy has carried out a reform of philosophical education in the Urals, in order to ensure that it corresponds to the needs of the democratic Russia.

The faculty has already made the transition to the preparation of bachelors and masters, and long-term experience of such training has been saved up.

It was precisely the philosophical faculty of USU where the concept of philosophical education and basic programs in these specializations were developed. We are the only institution to provide education for students in these specializations. Our graduates can work not only in the sphere of education, but also they can be engaged successfully in business, politics and work in the sphere of culture and mass communications.

The specialty "Study of Religion" was opened at the faculty in recent years, for which the complex of educational programs was prepared.

The faculty of philosophy of USU is the most innovative among the philosophical faculties of the country, and this fact has been repeatedly recognized within the philosophical community.

Practicality and relevance of the innovative programs of the faculty of philosophy is proved by the figures: in the 2008/09 academic year there were 106, and in the 2009/10 – 70 students of the internal form of training on the paid form of education (at a cost of more than 70 thousand rubles per year). This is more than the number of students of extra-budgetary form of education at all other philosophical faculties of Russia taken together. It should be noted that philosophy is not related to the number of disciplines, using the agiotage demand (the number of students of

extra-budgetary form of training in philosophy varies from 3 to 25 at other philosophical faculties of the country).

This state of affairs represents a logical outcome of the radical reforms of philosophical education conducted by the scientific council of the faculty of philosophy over the past two decades.

The faculty changed the form of philosophical education since the content of this education has undergone a fundamental change in accordance with the requirements of modern life and due to the rejection of its ideological component. Training of students at the faculty under the program of bachelors and masters has been conducted for more than 15 years – it is longer than in any other universities in Russia. Representatives of the faculty of philosophy of Moscow State University came to study the experience of the transition from training specialists to training bachelors and masters in the Urals. It was the initiative of our faculty that made EMA (Educational-methodical association on classical university education, operating on the basis of Moscow State University) add new disciplines into the list of specialization in the field of philosophy, disciplines necessary for the democratic Russia with a market economy:

- 020110 Philosophical anthropology,
- 020113 the Philosophy of law,
- 020114 Sociolinguistics,
- 020115 Social management,
- 020117 Aesthetics: art-business.

The specialty "Religious studies" is of particular importance at the philosophical faculty. The faculty is the only one place in the Urals, where secular specialists on the main religious denominations existing in the country receive special education, as well as experts on non-traditional religiosity and on the objects of cult. Graduates of the faculty can give lessons on religious studies in schools and universities,

interpreting the religion solely as a form of culture and ensuring the secular nature of education in accordance with the law.

Innovativeness of the faculty of philosophy of USU is manifested first of all by the fact that it has been rethinking radically the essence of the idea of philosophy essential for modern Russia for one and a half decades already. It is not an ideology, not a mandatory state worldview, not a "national idea", not some kind of "the only true thoughts", imposed by all and sundry. It is the ability to clear and draw their own thoughts, not borrowed from nowhere; it is the ability to express them clearly in words, in speech and writing; it is the ability to act on the public confidently, including in front of a large, unfamiliar audience, as well as in mass media. Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher, said that a man who cannot express his thoughts clearly on citizens' meetings should not be considered a citizen. Today, a person, who cannot participate in public discussion, at the meeting, take part in TV and radio broadcast, cannot be considered a citizen as well.

The ability to think clearly and precisely, speak well and write well, make presentation and self-presentation, to organize meetings and public debates – all these skills and abilities are formed by the specialization "Sociolinguistics". Professor A.V. Pertsev, its head and the dean of the faculty of philosophy, acts in the role of professional TV presenter of the TV channel "Ermak", which broadcasts to the entire Urals Federal District. Pertsev held 104 talk-shows, in which the guests were the ministers of Russian Federation, deputies of Federal Assembly, leaders of the region, as well as engineers, doctors, clergymen, teachers and representatives of almost all the major occupations in the region. Ratings of these talk-shows exceed 3 % of the number of viewers of the region. Over the past years A. V. Pertsev has hosted more than 50 programs, dedicated to the dialogue with the audience in

a live broadcast. He developed, as a part of the program of "Sociolinguistics", a training course, aimed at the formation in the listeners of skills of a speaker, TV presenter and radio broadcaster. His course includes (along with the theoretical lessons) practical classes, preparation of training of television and radio broadcasts in social-political and cultural issues, as well as the organization of presentations and self-presentations. This course may be introduced in Urals Federal University as a supplement to the curriculum of students, undergraduates, post-graduate students of all faculties, as well as of schoolchildren and adults, who improve their qualification.

Only in recent years three graduates of the faculty became TV presenters, who have academic degree and successfully host programs on social and political matters. This is a unique experience, which is no longer anywhere in Russia, but which is quite common in the West.

The faculty of philosophy in Ural Federal University will be able to tackle a range of tasks relating to the informing of population about the most important projects implemented in the region. These projects can be presented in a popular form, in the course of television and radio broadcasts, but also in the innovative form – on the Internet, in electronic media, in the form of audio-brochures, etc.

The specialization "Social management" is based on the fundamental and applied knowledge about man and society. In contrast to the disciplines of the management cycle, it is focused also on the ability to work with people, to build competently relations in groups, to conduct a political campaign, to provide information. This specialization was not a random choice for acting managers and employees of the office of regional and in particular municipal authorities. The faculty has created an innovative system of work with students via the representation of USU in eight cities of the region. Such modern

forms of education are used in teaching as training applications of audio-visual equipment, the arrival of external students at the session held in Ekaterinburg. Up to 600 external students have been trained in some years at the faculty of philosophy in accordance with this system (by the paid form of training only; at prices affordable for the population of the region, – about 15 thousand rubles for 6 months).

The Center of professional orientation and regional education was established at the faculty of philosophy. This center specially develops innovative methods for the work with those external students who live in Sverdlovsk region, as well as with the students of the Ural region. As a result, not only humanitarian, cultural environment was formed in the region for more than 15 years, but there appeared also a lot of specialists engaged in work with people. Sverdlovsk region is the only one area in Russia, where people with the basic philosophical education and competent in social and political issues engaged in the administration of the small towns.

The creation of the Ural Federal University allows to continue this tradition: teaching polytechnic disciplines in the former branches of Ural polytechnic institute can be organically supplemented by the basic humanitarian training and advanced training carried out there.

A team of highly qualified specialists in social processes was formed at the faculty as a result of scientific and teaching work on the specialization “Social management”. This team works at the chair of social philosophy under the guidance of professor V. E. Kemerov and receives grants for scientific research regularly. The activity of this group is combined in the educational and research process of the work of other candidates and doctors of sciences of the faculty. Thus, professor A. V. Pertsev is the scientific editor of the magazine “Municipal Russia” – the organ of the all-Russian congress of

municipal formations, which unites more than 35 thousand municipal formations of Russia.

Training on specialization the “Philosophy of law” is innovative at the faculty of philosophy of USU (this specialty is not taught in other universities in Russia). A unique dictionary about human rights, the first in Russia, was published by scientists of the faculty of philosophy. Students of this specialization come in contact during their practical lessons with the commissioner for human rights, get acquainted with the work of the regional authorities. In contrast to the professional lawyers, students of the faculty of philosophy specialize in the field of law and defense of human rights, i.e. they are oriented on such aspects as to teaching law in schools and universities, talking about problems of law in the mass media, to be engaged in legal education. A professional lawyer does not always have the skills of a popular statement of law for the inexperienced audience. This is the very task which is placed in front of those who specializes on philosophy of law. It is difficult to overestimate the importance and necessity of such specialists, especially of those who work with young people.

This work can be deployed and acquire new forms in the framework of the Ural Federal University. The study of the foundations of the philosophy of law is necessary for the formation of a civil society in Russia, to increase the legal culture in the country. Therefore, training in any of the directions in the Urals Federal University may be supplemented by special courses on the philosophy of law. Such conversation with students and population is needed and it is particularly important in the process of working with labor migrants.

There are studies at the faculty of philosophy for about 10 years which are dedicated to ensuring tolerance in the Urals region. The Institute of social and political sciences of Ural Federal University (the faculty of philosophy

will be a part in the structure of this institute) can and must prolong them. Many national cultures, different religions, different mentalities of residents of large, medium, small towns, settlements and villages coexist and interact in Sverdlovsk region – all this does not allow us to be limited to surface sociological registration of the ongoing processes. The university obliged to form a spiritual environment of the region, to actively influence the cultural life of each of the settlements, to maintain contact with “own” audience with the help of modern means of communication, but what is most importantly – by means of the periodic presence of the university’s public in the region and through communication with the population. This requires the development of innovative forms of the mentioned interaction – instead of the traditional system, which existed in the organization “Society of Knowledge”.

Work on vocational guidance among youngsters and pupils is the most important form of work, which the Center of vocational guidance and regional education may continue in the framework of Ural Federal University. Innovativeness of the university’s approach to this work lies in the fact that it is not confined to inform about the existing occupations and, accordingly, educational institutions, where it can be obtained; it forms an active stand in life for pupils, not the consumer, creative attitude to life. Medic, engineer, professor – all of them can be active contributors or may be opportunistic. In the first case, they build something new, in the second – they adapt to what has already been

built. The task of modern Russia is to increase the number of initiative people, but at the same time – of competent and responsible people, who are able not only to understand the professional affairs, but also to build human relationships competently.

All of this is provided by the system of work with schoolchildren and youth, the system was developed by the center of professional orientation and regional education.

Professor E.S. Cherepanova is the head of the staff, occupied with the study of pedagogy of tolerance. The university camp for schoolchildren “School of the successful applicant” has been existing under her guidance for five years. Up to 170 senior pupils had a rest and have passed a professionally-orientated training there in different years in August. Career-guiding activities, but to a lesser extent, were held for senior pupils of schools of city and area in the framework of the “Club of a classical university”. This work can and should be continued in the framework of Ural Federal University, because the wrong choice in life is the main source of social problems.

The order on the establishment of Ural Federal University was signed in April 2, 2010. Ural State University with its faculty of philosophy joined the structure of Ural Federal University in accordance with this order. Forty-year experience of the work of the faculty, its pioneering efforts in the field of education of students and the development of philosophical knowledge give us confidence that it will remain the leader of the Ural school of philosophy.

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**Философский факультет
Уральского федерального университета:
история, события, люди**

Б.В. Емельянов, А.В. Перцев
*Уральский федеральный университет
Россия 620083, Екатеринбург, Ленина, 51*

Статья представляет собой исторический обзор создания и реалий существования философского факультета Уральского университета (ныне Уральский федеральный университет). Особое внимание обращено на современное состояние инновационной учебной и научной деятельности кафедр.

Ключевые слова: философский факультет, диалектический и исторический материализм, история философии, социолингвистика, религиоведение, философия права, философская антропология.
