DEPARTMENT of CULTURAL STUDIES  
and  
DEPARTMENT of ROMANCE PHYLOLOGY  
NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY  
in Toruń  
and  
THE FOUNDATION "PIONOWY WYMIAR KULTURY"  
("The Vertical Dimension of Culture")  

have got the pleasure to invite scholars of various academic fields  

TO INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  

HOMO SPIRITUALIS  
of XX and XXI CENTURIES  

which will take place  
27-28 of May, 2015  
in Toruń  

At the beginning of modernity Friedrich Nietzsche proclaimed the death of God. Maks Weber announced the world devoid of magic aspect (increase of rationalisation of life – fatal for the religion). Since that moment the phenomenon of secularisation, which existed in western civilisation even earlier, gains strength and intensifies in European societies (T. Luckman, P. Berger). At the same time the crisis of Christianity (A. Bielik-Robson, T. Bartoś, Kłopot z chrześcijaństwem. Wieczne gniece, apokaliptyczny ogień, praca) is accompanied by phenomena that give testimony to unextinguished spiritual longing of human being (P. Norris, R. Inglehart, Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide; K. Skowronek, Z. Pasek, Nowa Duchowość w kulturze popularnej, J. Kristeva, This Incredible Need to Believe).

The second half of XX century on one hand brings the New Age spiritual syncretism, on the other hand reforms of Vaticanum Secundum (The Second Vatican Council). Actions of popes gather crowds, literature, music and art become proof that in lives and creations of outstanding individuals those spiritual inspirations (and judeo-christian tradition) still play important role. The category of soul also stays a crucial element of common imagination (D. Czaja, Anatomia duszy. Figury wyobraźni i gry językowe). Nevertheless changes in European legislation, so called „political correctness“, customs of citizens of the old continent and empty churches may suggest the end of certain paradigm. Those contradictions, observed in western civilisation, make us ask questions about the future of homo spiritualis and his participation in shaping our culture in the next decades (G. Weigel, The Cube and the Cathedral: Europe, America, and Politics Without God).

This conference is dedicated to the reflection on the condition of modern human being perceived from the perspective of the formula of homo spiritualis. The basic question is whether this formula still expresses the essence of human being – whether is actual and considering the modern human being.

Other questions that will be welcome in the papers:  
- situation of homo religiosus – of religious people in the reality of modern culture,  
- so called spirituality without God,  
- does homo religiosus stand a chance in changed circumstances of culture of our times,  
- modern human being– homo religiosus or homo spiritualis?
the character of non confessioonal spirituality,
Christians facing the changing modern world,
the attitude of modern world to religious people (Christians, Muslims, Jew society, and other religions and confessions),
the possibilities of self-realization of religious people in modern culture,
the cultural activities and achievements indebted to spiritual life of a man of nowadays,
the image of religious person in the intertextuality, (in literature, art, theatre and film),
the specific of religious human being of the XX century,
the changes in religiosity of modern society,
modern art and (re)interpretations of sacred texts,
homo spiritualis and pop-culture,
spirituality and forms of social life.

We invite specialists of different fields, among others specialists in: cultural studies, media, anthropology, ethnology, philosophy, theory of art, philology, literature, history and history of art, theology, etc.

All presentations should be prepared either in English or French. In those languages will be also published the monography dedicated to this subject. Presentations should take no more than 20 minutes. We ask for sending abstracts, together with registration form. Please send all those information on the address homospiritualis2015@gmail.com until 31 of October 2014.

The information about being admitted you will receive till the day 5 of December 2014. Till this time you will also receive the data necessary to pay conference fee.

The deadline for paying the fee (140 €) will be: 31 of January 2015.

The fee is 140 € and covers: costs of conference materials, buffet, dinner and publication of articles admitted to publishing.

More details after the 5-th of December. Please do not hesitate to send any of your questions to the following address: homospiritualis2015@gmail.com.

The committee of the conference:

dr Joanna Bielska-Krawczyk
dr Ewa Dryglas-Komorowska
dr Małgorzata Lisecka
dr Anna Żurawska – the secretary of the conference