

Ursul A.D.

## Global Research and Evolutionary Approach

**Abstract.** *This article examines the intensive and brightly expressed process of the globalization of science, which is an integral part of the global revolutionary transformations that unfold in many spheres of the human activity. These changes reflect the global trend of development of the modern science concentrated on the research of global processes and systems and the synergetic phenomenon that is associated with them – global development. This trend of the examined interdisciplinary research leads to a specific form of scientific knowledge, which is called the global knowledge. This type of knowledge reflects all global processes and systems that exist on the planet Earth from the perspective of their planetary integrity and evolutionary significance. A special attention is given to the methods and approaches used in a global research; i.e. the evolutionary and interdisciplinary approaches, and those that are associated with the geographic and time span in the subject area of the global research. An attempt was also made to implement integrative-interdisciplinary scientific methods and concepts in order to forecast the emergence of the new global scientific directions. Use of the evolutionary approach in the global research, which has recently been proposed by the author of this article, provided the ability to determine new scientific directions such as paleoglobalistics, futuroglobalistics, cosmoglobalistics, and a number of other areas of scientific search. The use of the evolutionary approach within the global research suggests that they will be more effectively studied based on the ideas and principles of the global (universal) evolutionism. It is expected that a new, evolutionary stage of global research will arise, and will concentrate attention on the global development.*

**Keywords:** *globalization, science, global research, global knowledge, global development, global processes, evolution, evolutionary globalistics, evolutionary approach, futuroglobalistics.*

The emergence and further development of global studies and other forms of global research was indeed an inevitable scientific answer to the global challenges of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 21st centuries.

Scientific reflections upon the the significance and future prospects of globalization, global problems and other planetary phenomena have led to the emergence of an important area of scientific research and a new stage in the development of modern

science. Global studies is already at the forefront of scientific and educational process and substantially affects the modern world view. The occurring intense globalization of science is a part of the global revolutionary transformation processes in all spheres of human activity.

It is a very important mission of global studies to find out the place and role of this type of processes in modern science and in the future of scientific research as well. The latter seems to be even more important as it requires considering the megatrends of its evolution, taking its global dimension and applying an effectively revolutionary perspective. An even more important task of global studies is to clarify the role of global phenomena in society and nature, to get the grasp of their evolution and coevolution processes. The authors of this paper believe that global studies, regardless of how broadly its subject is defined, is only a part of a huge scientific field (global research) and of the overall process of globalization of science.

The genesis of this scientific branch, however it's being called, can't be dated as late as from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in the 30s, when the global processes became a subject of scientific study in the works of V. I. Vernadsky. The authors are quite certain, that this scientist not only appeared to be on the frontline of global vision and thinking, but was also a founder of the global research and global education, whose many ideas were planetary-oriented.

It even may be stated that V. I. Vernadsky anticipated the emergence of the fundamentally new, global, trends in the development of science. His concept of the "planetary" essence of scientific thought has already manifested itself in the unfolding global processes, in the specific apprehension of them and in the anticipation of the future social and socio-natural evolutionary processes. The development of the modern

global studies, including those using the evolutionary approach, is spurred and affected by the V. I. Vernadsky's theory. His idea of Noosphere is intrinsically "planetary" in its perspective and promotes the global world view.

The research area of global studies in our country and in some of the post-Soviet states has already been more or less established in the scientific community. The development of this area won't stop unfolding and will certainly have a strong influence on the whole science. The authors of this paper regard global studies as a new integrative scientific field, which focuses on the various aspects of global processes and systems (primarily, globalization and global problems), identifies and examines their inner logic and development trends and also aims at elaborating complex practical measures to ensure the survival of humanity and the preservation of the biosphere.

Global processes can be defined as natural, social and socio-natural processes, which take place on the Earth and imply a planetary dimension. This type of phenomena includes such processes as globalization, global issues, global crises and disasters, sustainable development, and a number of others.

Planetary evolution begins within the tideway of the global natural cosmic process, and then, after getting to the social stage of evolution, it takes a longer-duration character. Under certain conditions, this socio-natural stage can proceed infinitely long. The scientific task here is to go beyond current developments, to take a look into the distant past and attempt to forecast the future. This will let us see a longer scale of global processes. The evolutionary vision allows to discover the direction of some global changes. Still many of them are primarily a result of the global human activity and of the developing socio-natural phase of global evolution. This is particularly impor-

tant for the further scientific reflection on the practical global activity, as this activity crucially determines the fate of civilization and of the biosphere.

In the course of the development of science, any research area sooner or later takes an evolutionary path. This tendency has inevitably involved global studies, whose modern subject field is still on its “encyclopaedic inventory” way. In the meantime, the importance of the very idea of development and evolution in its broadest sense (first of all, the evolution of global processes) for science and other social spheres is far from obvious.

The idea of evolution from time to time comes up in certain scientific disciplines and interdisciplinary researches. But today it is clear that this slow penetration of an evolutionary approach into the science already works as a tribute to their spontaneous development. This situation is partly caused by the fact that only historical approach used to be officially “welcomed”. The latter was normally applied in the qualifying papers, such as dissertations. This scientific perspective had also coexisted with a descriptive approach in many research areas. Moreover, even eminent scientists quite often identify the evolutionary approach with the historical one.

We have no doubt that the current situation in science should drastically change. It isn't meant to ultimately reject a historical approach, but to appropriately develop and implement the evolutionary approach to the scientific research where possible. The evolutionary approach has been introduced in scientific works as something essentially different from the historical one. It has fundamental importance not only for further theoretical understanding, but also for the certain practical activity. For example, the implementation of the evolutionary approach makes it possible to identify the direction followed by the object, which can be

progressive or regressive. This aspect often remains unclear to policy makers.

So, many people are convinced that almost any reform, e.g. in Russia, necessarily means worsening the conditions of life for the majority of population. Perhaps it is not so, but the thing is to get the capacity to give comprehensive evidence that the chosen decision has a progressive orientation. Unfortunately, today this sort of expertise, based on the evolutionary approach, isn't in use. Still it could contribute into defining the proper direction of the political thought and action at any level. It is especially important for the global level of political operating as the decisions, that are being taken there, affect the fate of all mankind. Some reflection on these problems and an intuitive awareness of the importance of the evolutionary approach in science and policy making led the authors of this paper to discover and develop an evolutionary understanding of global studies.

Therefore, a few years ago these scientists proposed such term as the evolutionary global studies. This new evolutionary approach made it possible to define the place of globalization in modern science, to build a common vision and to assess prospects for further development of global studies. The tendency to the further expansion of the subject field of global studies disclosed insufficiency of the existing historical method. A comprehensive understanding of these new global objects of scientific interest required an evolutionary vision and determining the role of the global natural processes, included into the evolutionary global studies, in accordance with V. I. Vernadsky's discovery.

We suppose that global studies is only part of a broader scientific field, regardless of how broadly its subject is defined. This new field is being formed along with the developing global research and the process of globalization of science. The evolutionary

perspective takes an essentially innovative interdisciplinary methodological approach to global studies in science and education. With the emergence of evolutionary globalistics, which is an integrative system of general scientific knowledge, it became possible to expand a scientific picture of the universe by bringing in modern evolutionary concepts, approaches, principles and practices. This also helped to apply an evolutionary approach through the set of effective analytical means and practical tools to find solutions of the important problems related to global studies.

Evolutionary globalistics integrates two philosophical and methodological approaches, which are evolutionism and globalism. The former is considered here in a broad sense, and can be defined as the formation of the worldview which represents the world in terms of the development most commonly regarded, i.e. as the directed changes in processes and systems (such as progress, regress and other types and areas of development). The modern concept of evolutionism, i.e. methodological approach, means studying processes not just in their dynamics and transformations, but in their development and evolution as well.

Globalism as a sort of a "global" worldview supposes a systemic approach, that focuses on the planetary integrity of the world. Humanity is considered a unified global community with prevailing global characteristics and a clearly realized empathy towards global problems and processes.

Evolutionary globalism not only deals with a broader subject area, but it is also an interdisciplinary conceptual approach to the study of both already well-known and future global phenomena in the evolutionary perspective and, above all, from the standpoint of the global evolutionism. The concept of evolution manifests itself in global studies in various ways, but the idea is to spread global evolutionism, which is a powerful

integrative area of research, that captures a growing number of fields of study.

In the framework of this concept, the evolution is represented by a set of ideas, regarding evolutionary process as a permanent self-organization of material systems, characterised successively by the progressive development of the inorganic, organic nature and then social stage. Further development is seen as a co-evolution of the social and natural levels and the environment in the Universe. Evolutionary globalism emerged as a planetary representation of the global evolutionism, but it addresses all current transformations and anticipated evolutionary metamorphosis of global processes and systems.

Whereas we proceed from the general evolutionary ideas and the broad understanding of global evolutionism, the "planetary" meaning of the term "global" and the "planetary" criteria of globality remain of particular interest in global studies. Global processes and systems are now regarded as the subject of evolution and globalization, which means dealing with the anthropological and sociocentric aspects of global growth. Globalism in its broadest sense studies global processes and systems, whereas the evolutionary globalism examines same issues but regards them as the global development phenomena, i.e. from a perspective of the global evolution, determining patterns and trends of their existence and development. Global development appears to be the principal subject of that area of global studies which addresses evolution issues. It also represents a fundamentally important evolutionary vision of global trends in scientific research.

In Russia and, to some extent, in post-Soviet countries globalistics and global studies form the domains of research more or less firmly established in the world science. We consider globalistics to represent both a new scientific discipline and a general

integrative scientific trend dealing with various aspects of global processes and systems (primarily those of globalization and global issues). Globalistics identifies and examines their laws and development dynamics, as well as the reasonable practical steps to ensure the survival of humanity and preservation of biosphere.

Applying the evolutionary ideas in globalistics, which is to transform it into evolutionary globalistics, relates primarily to the planetary concept of evolution. Within the framework of such approach, globalistics studies global processes and systems, particularly globalization and global problems, in their progress and from the perspective of a man and mankind. Global processes and systems appear to be the most important subject of global studies. The simultaneous use of the process-based concepts and evolutionary ones expands horizons of global knowledge, provides an opportunity to engage globalistics more actively into the global processes of inter- and transdisciplinary synthesis and formation of integrative and general scientific knowledge.

Development, or evolution, unfolds as a highest form of global processes, representing a directed change in the content of an object, where the main directions are the progress, regress, neutral (uni-level) development and some other forms. "Development" is synonymous to "evolution" in its broad sense, although there is a more specific definition of evolution (as gradual or only quantitative changes). One of the challenges for evolutionary globalistics shall be in identifying the evolution vectors of global processes and in providing recommendations for the effective global activity and orientating it in a progressive forward direction.

In the present paper, global processes are regarded as natural, social and socio-natural processes unfolding on the Earth and either having or acquiring planetary

inscape or dimension, such as globalization, global problems, global crises and disasters, sustainable development, noosphere genesis and a number of other phenomena.

Within the proposed approach, the planetary evolution is believed to have begun with the natural global-cosmic processes and to have later obtained a socio-natural mode after the stage of social evolution. Under certain condition, global evolution can continue indefinitely. Global processes and systems, formed on their basis, should be viewed through the new prism of broader spatial scopes and time ranges, not limited to recent events. This evolutionary perspective opens the way for detecting not only the apparent vectored changes in global processes, but also the occurrence of new transformations resulting from global activities and the unfolding socio-natural evolution phase. This makes sense not only for the further research, but mostly for the practical global measures, on which ultimately depend the fate of civilization and the biosphere.

Globalistics and other global branches of knowledge will include into their subject field new global phenomena, both existing ones (though some scientists still refuse to consider natural global processes as the subject of globalistics) and the profoundly new processes, such as a global transition to sustainable development. The intensive development of globalistics and global studies also comes from the occurring interdisciplinary synthesis, which considerably accelerates generating a new scientific knowledge, including global knowledge, stimulating the formation of a global consciousness and global governance. Global research is already moving to the fore of the scientific-educational process and becoming one of the foundations of the modern world view.

Applying evolutionary approach in globalistics means accepting a concept of

involvement of absolutely all global trends into the development process, with progressive, regressive or other orientation. This aspect of the evolution in global processes ensures the possibility of a more profound and substantial research on these processes, which can include quantitative methods and various types of global modelling.

Thus, globalistics, regardless of how broadly it is defined, represents such a field of study, which serves as a “global

attractor”, drawing various branches of knowledge and significantly expanding its scope. This tendency considerably contributes to the globalization of science. But besides this main trend of a discipline-specific theoretical framing of globalistics, there is an integration process occurring at the interface of different sciences, such as politics, pedagogics, sociology, information and others. This process is to continue in future.

### References (transliterated)

1. Mazur, I.I., Chumakov, A. N. Eds. 2006. Globalistics: International interdisciplinary encyclopedic dictionary, Moscow, St. Petersburg.
2. Grinin, L.E., Ilyin, I.V., Korotayev, A.V. Eds. 2012. Globalistics and Globalization Studies, Volgograd.
3. Abylgaziev, I.I., Ilyin, I. V. Eds. 2012. 3G: Globalistics, Globalistics, Globalization Studies: Scientific Digest, Moscow.
4. Ilyin I. V., Ursul A. D., 2012. Nooglobalistics and Nooglobalistics, 3G: Globalistics, Global Studies, Globalization Studies: Scientific Digest, Eds. I. I. Abylgaziev, I. V. Ilyin, Moscow.
5. Randers J., 2012. 2052 — A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years, Club of Rome.
6. Robertson R., 1992. Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture, London.
7. Robertson R., 1983. Interpreting Globality. Eds. Robertson R. World Realities and International Studies, Glenside (Pa).
8. Micklethwait J., Wooldridge A. A., 2000. Future Perfect: The Essentials of Globalization. N.Y.
9. Ursul A.D., Kaljuzhnaja D. E., 2014. Sustainable development and global politics. Vestnik MGIMO-University, 2.
10. Anheier, H.K., Juergensmeyr, M. Eds. 2012. Encyclopedia of Global Studies, Los Angeles, London and others.
11. Ilyin I. V., Ursul A. D. 2014. Global studies and globalistics. The evolutionary dimension. Saarbrücken.
12. Grinin, L.E., Ilyin, I.V., Korotayev, A. V. Eds. 2014. Globalistics and Globalization Studies. Aspects & Dimensions of Global Views, Volgograd.
13. Ursul A. D., Ursul T. A. Global'noe napravlenie nauki // Filosofskaya mysl'. — 2013. — 10. — C. 58–120. DOI: 10.7256/2409-8728.2013.10.8869. URL: [http://www.e-notabene.ru/fr/article\\_8869.html](http://www.e-notabene.ru/fr/article_8869.html)
14. A. D. Ursul, T. A. Ursul Global'nye issledovaniya: ot globalizatsii znaniya k stanovleniyu global'nogo znaniya // Filosofiya i kul'tura. — 2010. — 8. — C. 81–91.
15. Ursul A. D., Ursul T. A., Il'in I. V. Global'nye i politicheskie protsessy: stanovlenie evolyutsionnogo podkhoda // Yuridicheskie issledovaniya. — 2013. — 3. — C. 95–154. DOI: 10.7256/2409-7136.2013.3.564. URL: [http://www.e-notabene.ru/lr/article\\_564.html](http://www.e-notabene.ru/lr/article_564.html)
16. Ursul A. D., Ursul T. A. Universal'nyi (global'nyi) evolyutsionizm i global'nye issledovaniya // Filosofskaya mysl'. — 2012. — 1. — C. 46–101. URL: [http://www.e-notabene.ru/fr/article\\_116.html](http://www.e-notabene.ru/fr/article_116.html)

17. Ursul A. D., Ursul T. A. Global'noe mirovozzrenie i global'nye issledovaniya // Sotsiodinamika.— 2012.— 1.— С. 137-173. URL: [http://www.e-notabene.ru/pr/article\\_46.html](http://www.e-notabene.ru/pr/article_46.html)
18. Ursul A. D., Ursul T. A. Evolyutsionnye paradigmy i modeli obrazovaniya XXI veka // Sovremennoe obrazovanie.— 2012.— 1.— С. 1-67. URL: [http://www.e-notabene.ru/pp/article\\_59.html](http://www.e-notabene.ru/pp/article_59.html)
19. A. D. Ursul, T. A. Ursul Global'nyi (universal'nyi) evolyutsionizm: predmetnoe pole i problemnaya orientatsiya // Filosofiya i kul'tura.— 2012.— 2.— С. 6-20.