

ABSTRACTS

SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

“I Have Always Been a Materialist in Sociology”. Interview with Professor Vasily Elmeev

Boris Doktorov interviews Professor Vasily Elmeev about his life and academic career.

HISTORY OF RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGY

Bochkareva V. M. Engelgardt's Moral Sociology

This article analyzes the moral sociology of M. Engelgardt, a prominent Russian social thinker. Basing on broad empirical material Engelgardt's research on “emotional” behavioral aspect of morals brings him to a decision that social progress derives from the advance of cruelty.

Engelgardt M. Progress as Evolution of Hypocrisy

This is a republication of Chapter XIV from M. Engelgardt's book *Progress as Evolution of Cruelty* (St. Petersburg: Izd. F. Pavlenkov, 1899).

IN MEMORY OF YURI DAVYDOV

Gergilov R. The Impact of M. Weber and M. Scheler on Sociology of Culture and Knowledge

The article analyzes the impact that M. Weber and M. Scheler had on modern scholars in the field of sociology of culture and knowledge. The author's main task was to overcome a frequent tendency among the historians of social sciences to underestimate M. Scheler's contribution to the formation and development of the sociology of knowledge.

CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Ivanov D. Glam-Capitalism and Social Sciences

The article argues that social sciences now face challenge of “glamour”. New modality of capitalism arising from symbolic production and overflow of images and brands is depicted as glam-capitalism, and new regime of scientific research revealed in current management, marketing, and consulting is defined as glam-science. The prospects of social sciences are considered in the context of dominant order of glam-capitalism which is challenged by alter-social movements.

Smagina M. Social Constructionism versus Traditional Methodology in Social Sciences

This article reveals the “antifundamentalist” pathos of constructionism, the idea that there is no fundamental reality beyond any object of social research.

The author argues that constructionism strengthens a reflexive position of an individual, underlining the ways by which scholars create a subject of their research, raising sensitivity to the ways by which people present their representations as clear maintaining ones and avoiding others.

SOCIOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN SOCIETY

Shkaratan O. The Formation of Social and Economic System of Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia in Historical Perspective

This article deals with historical factors leading to formation of contemporary Russian social and economic system. These are the statist (“Asian”) mode of production, the absence of private property in land, the prevalence of public law over private law, and the long period of state-dominated society. To author's opinion, this institutional structure and value system correspond to a special type of civilization (Eurasian) which differs significantly from a European (atlantic) one.

SOCIOLOGY OF CONFLICT AND CONSENSUS

Muzdybaev K. Social Dilemmas and Ways of their Solution

The study of social dilemmas is the study of the conflict between private egoistical interests and collective interests. The basic properties of bidimensional and multidimensional social dilemmas are analyzed. The various kinds of social dilemmas are described: resource dilemmas, dilemmas of the public goods and dilemmas of “loafers”. The ways of the solution of social dilemmas are incorporated in three wide spheres: personal factors, situational factors and the control and stimulation of cooperative behavior.

SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL WORK

Smirnova T. The Employment of Elderly People in the Context of Population Aging

The urgency of the problem of employment among the elderly is determined by Russia's ageing population and the increase in the number of qualified specialists with higher education among them. Foreign experience in dealing with this problem is considered: making retirement more acceptable through gradual reduction of working time, and engaging elderly people into consulting activities. The author reveals the specificities of the labour market for people of pre-pensionable and early pensionable age in Russia.

Some reasons of continuing labour activity of elderly people are analyzed in the article. One can see its positive influence on different spheres of their life. All conclusions are based on empirical research carried out by the author.

Smolkin A. Medical discourse in the Construction of the Old Age Image

The article deals with the role medical discourse plays in creating the image of the old age. The fact that the old age is regarded in terms of functionality/disfunctionality and is biomedicalised creates the necessary prerequisites for common interpretation of the old age as an incurable disease. This may cause social exclusion and may lead to the effect of the self-realised prophecy.

ETHNIC STUDIES

Galetkina N. The Poles of Vershyina Village: Ethnicity as Resource

The author examines the processes of ethnicity actualization that have been taking place for the last decade in the village Vershyina located in Bokhan district

of the Irkutsk Region. The descendants of Polish migrants settled down in Siberia in 1910th during agricultural Stolypin's reform constitute the prevailing part of the village population. In view of presented situation, the author makes a following conclusion: the most stimulating role in today's ethnic actualization belongs to the contacts between the local inhabitants and the people from Poland, the «historical Motherland» and ethnicity becoming an important economic and symbolic resource. The article is mainly based on the empirical materials collected in the course of fieldwork in Vershyina and the neighboring villages in 2005. The results of earlier author's investigations and publications of Polish and Russian researchers were used here as well.

WORKSHOP

Semina M. Writing a Qualitative Research Report

It is very important today not only to get information and receive the insights from the research, but also to present these data to the audience. There is a considerable demand from sociologists and marketologists for knowledge about organizing and presenting data. The author describes different approaches in writing reports, explains the structure of the report, and gives suggestions how to avoid logical contradictions and frequent mistakes characteristic for inexperienced researchers.

REPORT

Zasyplin V. Social Stereotype of the Contemporary Teacher

The article contains the results of the study which has been realized among the schoolboys, parents and teachers from Surgut city on revealing a socially stereotyped image of the contemporary teacher. The author empirically revealed 11 key words characterizing the stereotype image of the contemporary teacher. All these characteristics are classified into two groups: principle and secondary characteristics with the positive and negative connotations. The domination of the positive characteristics of stereotype image is emphasized. It is established that the tolerance is the dominant characteristic of the stereotype image of the teacher.

Kurske V. Marginal Group Identity: the Case of Russian Germans

The author treats the problem of Russian Germans identity. He considers this group as being on the border of two cultures. He uses the marginal personality model to analyse their situation and explores different conceptions of ethnic identity in relation to a marginal group.

Vlasova O. Criteria for Being Normal: Social Phenomenology of Madness

The article aims at the analysis of normality criteria and their connection with public norms and historical normative standards. The author considers the ideas of R. Benedict, M. Herskovits, G. Devereux, K. Jaspers, L. Binswanger, E. Straus, J.H. Van Den Berg, T. Szasz, R.D. Laing, D. Cooper. It is emphasized, that the problem of a place of madness in XX century society is transformed to a question of abnormality of a society and culture thus changing the cultural attitude to madness.

NEWS / INFORMATION

The International Conference “Transformation of Social Inequalities and Social Welfare Development in Central and Eastern Europe”

The International Conference “Transformation of Social Inequalities and Social Welfare Development in Central and Eastern Europe” was held at St. Petersburg State University, 21–23 September, 2006.

The All-Russia Conference “Classical University in Non-Classical Age”

The All-Russia Conference “Classical University in Non-Classical Age” was organized at the Faculty of Philosophy, Tomsk State University, 27 – 28 June, 2007 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of this Faculty.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Emelyanov I.

Giddens A. Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love and Eroticism in Modern Societies. St. Petersburg: Piter, 2004. — 208 p.

Khanova T. Trying to understand

Simonyan R. Russia and Baltic States. M.: Institute of Sociology, 2005. — 514 p.