

## ABSTRACTS

### SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

#### **Interview with Professor Jeffrey Alexander**

Andrey Rezaev asks Professor Jeffrey Alexander about his life and academic career.

#### ***Alexander J. The ‘Marxism Project’ in the History of Its Times***

This is a Russian translation of Jeffrey Alexander’s article published in Thesis Eleven. 2010. No 100. February. P. 81–83.

#### ***Alexander J. Marxism and the Spirit of Socialism: Cultural Origins of Anti-Capitalism (1982)***

This is a Russian translation of Jeffrey Alexander’s article published in Thesis Eleven. 2010. No 100. February. P. 84–105.

### MOBILITY STUDIES

#### ***Veselkova N. New Mobilities Research: Co- and Counter Flows and Social Competence***

New mobilities paradigm (J. Urry) is compared to the classical social mobility concept (P. Sorokin), institutionalization practices of the new approach are characterized, and heuristics of cultures and policies of mobilities is evaluated. Intrinsic criterion for mobilities classification is proposed, resulting in co- and countermobilities types. Development of mobilities studies through the concept of social competence is discussed.

#### ***Savelyeva E. New Professional Groups in the Framework of Mobile Network Society***

The article is devoted to the question of difference between the so called “new” professionals (freelancers and outsourcers). The network society transformation results in the mobile network society where “meetingness” and connectivity are prevailing over mobilities. The priority is given to the network capital (J. Urry) drawn by analogy with P. Bourdieu’s social capital. Though, now it is possible to speak about an additional form of capital called “mobile capital”. This capital is characteristic of new professionals like freelancers and outsourcers. Freelance and outsourcing as employment are seen in two ways. Firstly, this is the one and the same process viewed and interpreted by various agents. Secondly, these are gradations set between traditional employment and “free” employment.

### SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

#### ***Abramova N. Lifelong Learning: an Attempt at Sociological Definition***

The author focuses on the issue of lifelong learning and analyzes its conceptual space. According to author’s opinion, the concept of lifelong learning is a product of globalization age (information revolution, global labour-market, demographic setting), allowing various definitions in academic literature.

***Ivanova V. Institutional Functions of Education: an Obsolete or Promising Issue?***

The paper is devoted to methodological aspects of the study of institutional functions of education. It is one of the core theoretical constructs in contemporary sociology of education. The author argues that the elaboration of the functions issue provides an orientation for practical outputs of this sociological field.

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

***Naberushkina E. City for All: The Accessibility of Urban Space for Disabled People***

This article is devoted to a new direction in studying the accessibility of the social space of the modern city for people with disabilities. It focuses on the study of social exclusion on the basis of disability, the impact of social knowledge on urban planning practice. The article contains an overview of paradigms and ideological beliefs that determine the design and labeling of urban space. The author focuses on the following questions: what are the socio-political and economic conditions that affect the formation of barriers and practices of social exclusion of disabled from city's everyday life, what were the models of human being that defined image of towns and houses in the Soviet era and shaped the right of persons with disabilities to accessible social space, what are the barriers of the modern city, impeding social communication and tolerance.

ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

***Shershneva E. The Deficit of Skilled Workers in the Russian Labour Market: Workers' Demand for Vocational Training***

In this paper an attempt is made to demonstrate that some skilled manual workers are at a disadvantage in the Russian labour market. Their qualification involves long-term on-the-job training, which is often firm- and industry-specific. Specific skills restrict workers' mobility and ability to adapt to market changes. Simultaneously, institutional guarantees, which could compensate for restricted mobility, are absent. That is why bargaining power of workers in negotiating wages and working conditions remain weak. These jobs lose attractiveness, and employers face workers' reluctance to invest in training. Thus, in explaining the deficit of skilled workers, the author makes an attempt to shift the attention from the supply of vocational training to the demand for it on the part of workers. The article is based on research conducted in 2008.

ETHNIC STUDIES

***Halliste O. New Issues of Russian-Speaking Youth Integration in Estonia***

Over the past two decades, the Estonian society has undergone serious social, political and economic transformation. In the modern history of the Estonian Republic there was a collapse of the Soviet Union, entry into NATO and the European Union, economic miracle and the subsequent economic crisis, the April 2007 riots, and the recent adoption of euro. However, one aspect of the Estonian society remains unchanged, it relates to its social fragmentation, which makes the perception and interpretation of all these events by various sectors of society very different. The sociological studies suggest that Estonia today is a country of two societies. The author discusses government measures to tackle this situation, analyzes the existing integration program and evaluates the possibilities of further development of integration policy of the Estonian Republic.

REPORTS

**Zagrebina A. Social Functions of Conversation: Modern Reception of G. Tarde's Ideas**

The purpose of this article is to assess the relevance of G. Tarde's theoretical conclusions regarding the social functions of conversation for contemporary sociology. The article examines the influence of Tarde's views on researchers of the XXth century, analyzes his key ideas about conversation as a subject of scientific analysis, social function and evolution of the conversation, and shows how his findings have found empirical evidence in the XXth century. The author also presents recent research on the role of conversation in public life that does not coincide with the position of Tarde. It allows her to compare Tarde's ideas with the views of contemporary scholars and draw conclusions about the relevance of his theory for the XXI century.

**Ilchuk S. Graduate Students' Position in the Labour Market (the Case of Astrakhan Region)**

The article presents the results of the study aimed at determining the position of graduates in the regional labor market. The monitoring of enterprises and organizations of the main industries of the Astrakhan region revealed the human resource capacity of the regional economy and determined the minimum annual demand for graduates of higher educational institutions. The author evaluated the level of demand for graduates, investigated the structural characteristics of unemployed graduates in the context of training areas, analyzed the educational services offered by the system of additional professional education of the Astrakhan region, identified the main available areas of re-training, suggested professional competencies of higher school graduates needed to advance in the educational process at the university.

NEWS/INFORMATION

**First Summer Session of the International Project "Comparative Study of Everyday Life: Current Theoretical Paradigms, Methodological Orientations and Teaching Practices". Second Summer Session and Third Follow-up Session**

The International Project "Comparative Study of Everyday Life: Current Theoretical Paradigms, Methodological Orientations and Teaching Practices" was organized by the Chair of Comparative Sociology, Faculty of Sociology, SPSU with the help of "Open Society" Institute in the framework of The International Higher Education Support Program (HESP) Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (ReSET) and Sociology Department, Jagiellonian University, Krakow. The academic director of the Project is Professor Piotr Sztompka. The Second Summer Session was held at Raivola, near St. Petersburg, 18–31 July 2010 continued by the Third Follow-up Session, held at the same location, October 22–23.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

**Veselkova N. A Worthy Life and Happiness**

**The Image of a Dignified Life in Contemporary Russian Media. Yekaterinburg: Ural University Press, 2008. — 228 p.**