

## ABSTRACTS

### SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

#### **Interview with Professor Nikita Pokrovsky**

Professor Nikita Pokrovsky answers questions of JSSA editor Vladimir Kozlovsky concerning his life and academic career.

### SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE

#### ***Vasilkova V., Basov N. Conceptualizing a Metaphor of Intellectual Landscape***

The paper attempts to conceptualize a metaphor of intellectual landscape and contributes to the key tasks of sociology of knowledge, which stem from the growth of complexity, non-linearity and high dynamics of the present-day knowledge structures. Authors mark the key ideas that influenced the development of the sociology of knowledge into an interdisciplinary metatheoretical field throughout 20<sup>th</sup> century and draw attention to the major trends in its further evolution. The basic mechanisms of collaborative knowledge generation as a process of structural coupling and co-creation of knowledge, communication and emotional energy are described. Then the authors elaborate their concept of intellectual landscape – a dynamic, complex, non-linear, heterogeneous network structure embedded in sociocultural environment, which consists of actors and more or less stable network integrities connected by communication ties of various density and intensity allowing to generate emotional energy and create knowledge.

#### ***Shkurko A. Problem Solving Situations as an Object of Sociological Study***

Situatedness of action and cognition makes some social theorists address situation as a source of explanation of human behavior. However, situations themselves remain unexplained. For sociology, it is necessary to explain why and which situations appear in life and influence behavior. To make situational analysis sociologically relevant, we pay attention to task-solving situations. Here we define situations as opposing to actions (task solving) and not to actors. Task-solving is a kind of discrete and specific activity that can be referred to social functions at the societal level. A sociological study of task-solving situations implies task localization and decomposition of activities, analysis of situation structure, and description of situations and their structural features distribution. We illustrate this situational approach with an example in the sociology of science.

## SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE

### ***Latysheva E. Changing Attitudes to the Issue of Drug Addiction among Young People of St. Petersburg***

This article is based on data obtained during sociological survey among students conducted in October–November 2009 in St. Petersburg. These materials reflect the youth attitudes to the problem of drug abuse and related risks, including their opinion on the legalization of drugs. Respondents also define the image of a drug user, effective methods of treatment and care, think about the possibilities of stopping using drugs and so on. The article contains monitoring on drug situation which represents the changes in Primorsky district of St. Petersburg from 1997 to 2005. Data analysis allows revealing the main risk factors of drug abuse among students. All this makes visible the link between personal attitude of young men to the issue of drug abuse and addiction and their propensity to narcotics abuse.

### ***Tsoy N. Low Self-Control as a Factor of Internet Addiction***

The phenomenon of Internet-dependent behavior is a social problem of contemporary society that has a negative impact on many aspects of social relationships. The author claims that one of the factors in the development of Internet addiction is low self-control. The empirical research was conducted among students (N=534) of Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok) in 2010. The research questionnaire has three parts: 1) the general pattern of Internet use and test on Internet addiction; 2) the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire; 3) the social and demographic characteristics of respondents. The results of this study are discussed within the framework of T. Hirshi's control theory. The author argues that inadequate education, inability to cope with the spontaneous, impulsive drives, weak social ties increase the likelihood of an individual to develop Internet addiction. She offers some recommendations for the prevention of this negative social phenomenon on the basis of the identified determining social factor. Finally, the author suggests that the results and conclusions of this study can be a basis for further investigation.

## SOCIOLOGY OF MIGRATION

### ***Rudenko A. Social Adaptation of Labour Migrants in the Construction Industry of St. Petersburg***

Labour migrants while integrating into Russian society, actively modify it. For this reason it is important to offer a sociological diagnosis of migration processes on macro, meso and micro levels. The author made a qualitative case-study of a small firm operating in construction industry in St. Petersburg. He conducted interviews with managers, Russian workers and 20 labour

migrants from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The research focused on the adaptation of migrant workers to the new social space of the big city.

## SOCIOLOGY OF THINGS

### ***Kotelnikova Z. How Things Interfere in Relations (the Case of Anti-Theft Equipment in Stores)***

Today it is widely recognized that it is important for a sociological analysis of social relations to take into consideration material objects because they play a key role in construction of social orders. The issue arises, however, as to what relations between humans and non-humans are. The ANT supposes that relations between humans and non-humans are symmetrical, while the SCOT perspective primarily considers the role of relevant social groups. The paper focuses on the role of objects in configuring shopping and mass retail practices. It is directly devoted to security equipment, and particularly on electronic article surveillance technology used in stores to prevent shoplifting. Combating with shoplifters retailers transmitted the function of protection to technologies. However the mass implementation of the anti-theft systems generates contested relations between relevant groups including retailers, consumers and suppliers. It results in changes in social meanings assigned to anti-theft technologies. The empirical data embraces several sources including series of research projects regularly conducted by Lab for Studies in Economic Sociology (Higher School of Economics) in 2006–2010.

## SOCIOLOGY OF CINEMA

### ***Polyushkevich O. Ideological Propaganda: Analysis of N. Mikhalkov's Films***

The paper analyzes the characteristics of ideological propaganda in contemporary Russian society embracing the directorial works by N. Mikhalkov from 1967 to 2010. The author considers the development of the “relationship” between N. Mikhalkov and authority and analyzes the features of the director's methods and instruments of ideological pressure on the viewer.

## SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

### ***Romanov P., Iarskaya-Smirnova E. Social Anthropology in a Field of Higher Education***

The article is based on the results of qualitative interviews and analysis of documents. The authors consider conditions of the development of social anthropology curricula in Russian universities. They claim that social anthropology programs in Russia in the beginning of 1990s have been established under the conditions of competition of different agents and their ideologies. The study of a discussion on educational standards helps reconstruct

institutional dynamics that have led to a crisis of university training program in social anthropology. An analytic perspective of sociology of knowledge has been used to consider such factors of this program development as legacy of intellectual traditions, ideological and bureaucratic control of higher education, conflict of agents interested in monopolization of this field. The types of educational programs have been presented that implement national standard in social anthropology in different Russian universities. The typology is based on the axes “universal / local” and “pure / applied scholarship”.

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### ***Surkova I. The Social Status of Vietnam War Veterans: Attitude of Society and Social Support***

The purpose of this article is to provide a descriptive analysis of the American social policy for the Vietnam War veterans. This paper includes three parts: description of protest movements and the struggle for the recognition of the Vietnam War veteran’s status; studying the problems and consequences of “war syndrome”; expertise of American legislation within the context of the Vietnam veteran’s social protection. The recognition of the PTSD as the illness allowed using rehabilitation programs for more effective integrating former combatants into a peaceful social environment. Measures of the combatants social support in the United States based on the implementation programs of preferential maintenance of educational needs, group life insurance, medical rehabilitation, not only owing of injuries, but also in connection with the effects of herbicides. In the USA active work is conducted on carrying out of such programs as assistance in finding co-soldiers, housing for homeless veterans of the Vietnam War, rehabilitation after returning from correctional institutions, the use of round-the-clock telephone hotline.

## **REPORTS**

### ***Sergeyeva N. Institutional Factors of Adolescent Social Competence Development***

The paper examines the concept and structure of social competence. The author analyses the impact on the formation of adolescent social competence of such socializing institutions as family, school, extracurricular youth institutions and youth associations, and the media. She identifies some specific problems of these agents of socialization. The paper also suggests indirect audiovisual methods of adolescents’ social competence building, such as developing computer games and social video and films. Their brief description is given and their advantages in comparison with the traditional forms of adolescent prevention work are indicated. The author’s experience in audiovisual methods development is shared.

***Mironova N. Ethnic Identity of Today's Youth in the Komi Republic (the Students in Syktyvkar)***

This article analyzes the criteria of ethnic identity of today's youth in the Komi Republic focusing on university students of Syktyvkar. The author describes the results of a series of sociological studies on ethnic identity among the youth of the Komi Republic in 2004–2008. She examines the level of ethnic awareness and the role of language in the process of identification. It is shown that ethnic identity has complex and situational character and is charged with symbolic meaning.

NEWS/INFORMATION

**Russia and Korea in the Era of Globalization: Challenges, Trends and Prospects**

The international conference “Russia and Korea in the Era of Globalization: Challenges, Trends and Prospects” was held April 8, 2011 in Seoul. It was organized by the Institute of Russian Studies at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea) and the Institute of Eastern and Western societies, the Faculty of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University (Russia). The Conference was the first academic event between the two countries, dedicated exclusively to sociological treatment of topical issues of contemporary Russian and Korean societies.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

***Boklin A.***

**Ehrenreich B. Smile or Die: How Positive Thinking Fooled America and The World. London: Granta Books, 2010. — 256 p.**

During the last few decades, the self-help literature boom has been growing with an increasing swiftness. A special place in this field is occupied by expert manuals on positive thinking which enjoy wide popularity in our country. However, despite such an enlarging demand in Russia, there are almost no publications at all that would critically interpret this phenomenon and that have already gained a serious attention of the Western audience. As an instance of such interpretation, the present article analyses the views of the famous social critic Barbara Ehrenreich, whose work is perhaps the most consistent and successful critique of negative consequences that positive thinking may produce. In addition to this, the article gives a critical evaluation of Ehrenreich's critique itself.